

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LIX.]

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BIRTHS.

On the 12th December, 1903, at Hankow, the wife of R. T. BOOTH, Wesleyan Mission, of a son, JOHN HERBERT PEROTT.

On the 24th December, 1903, at Shanghai, the wife of CHAS. MORE, C.E., of a son.

On the 25th December, 1903, at 9, Chaoufoong Road, Shanghai, the wife of W. E. KENT, of a son.

On the 26th December, 1903, at 5, Boundary Terrace, Shanghai, the wife of THOMAS D. BEGG, British and Foreign Bible Society, of a daughter.

On the 27th December, 1903, at No. 4, Ward Road, Shanghai, the wife of E. JESSEN, of a daughter.

On the 28th December, 1903, at 48, Range Road, Shanghai, the wife of ERNEST L. ALLEN, of a son.

At Sandyholme, Port Edward, Weihaiwei, the wife of T. CARR RAMSEY, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

On the 28th December, 1903, at the Union Church, Shanghai, by the Rev. C. E. Farwent, M.A., JOHAN ALBERT OLSEN, to HELEN WINIFRED HANSEN, only daughter of Captain CHR. HANSEN, of Shanghai.

DEATHS.

On the 27th December, 1903, at Nice, GEORGE THIN, M.D., aged 65 years.

On the 28th December, 1903, at Dove's Nest, River Valley Road, Singapore, as the result of an accident, STYL ELLA, beloved daughter of S. DONNENBERG, aged 2 years and 4 months.

On the 28th December, 1903, at the Shanghai General Hospital, HENRY ARNOLD, aged 28 years.

On the 2nd January, 1904, at the General Hospital, Shanghai, ELIZABETH, wife of H. J. SUCH.

On the 3rd January, 1904, at the General Hospital, Shanghai, FRED HOTTE, aged 30 years.

On the 3rd January, 1904, at Hainan Road, Shanghai, JOHN KROGER, aged 62 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
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ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The German Mail arrived per s.s. *Sachsen* on the 7th inst.; and the French Mail of the 11th ult. is due to arrive by the s.s. *Ernest Simons* to-morrow.

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

All Japanese officers in Germany and Italy have been recalled.

The Italian warships *Marco Polo*, *Dogali* and *Umbria* are also leaving for the East.

The French armoured cruiser *Sully* (10,014 tons) is being hurried out to the Far East.

Mr. Shaw has recommended the U.S. House of Representatives at Washington to establish a Consul-General at Moukden and a Consul at Antung.

The new Governor of Macao is Senhor Martinho Pinto de Queiroz Montenegro, Ex-Governor of Portuguese Zambesia. Senhor Montenegro is a captain in the Royal Portuguese Navy.

Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge, C.B., who was to have left Shanghai for Hongkong on the 7th inst., was ordered to postpone his departure at the last moment on account of the uncertain outlook of the political situation.

The Peace Bureau at Berne has drafted a memorandum in support of the petition of the Powers calling on them, under the Hague Convention, to offer Russia and Japan their services with a view to a peaceful settlement of their difficulties.

As the result of the recent looting by Chinese of one of the camps on the Canton-Fatsan railway, work on that particular section of the line is still practically at a standstill. Scarcity of tools impedes progress. On the other sections too, it is reported, there is not so much headway being made as could be desired by the promoters.

We learn that a serious outbreak of fire occurred on Wednesday at Macao, causing damage to property to an estimated extent of \$100,000. The conflagration took place in Rua Nova d'El Rei. How it originated does not transpire. The flames rapidly spread from house to house and despite the efforts of the Fire Brigade no less than 60 houses were ultimately gutted. Damage is partly covered by insurance.

According to information from official sources in S. Petersburg, the Russian reply to Japan, which was presented on the 6th inst., is "most conciliatory; some of the Japanese proposals are accepted and others are made the subject of extended observations and met by counter proposals." Telegrams from S. Petersburg mention the holding of a Grand Council, presided over by the Tsar, at which several Grand-Dukes, M. de Witte, and the leading Ministers were present. It is supposed that the reply to Japan was drafted at this Council. From Japan it is reported that the reply is quite unsatisfactory and is regarded merely as a ruse.

The situation in Corea looks grave; not only has a Russian Legation guard marched overland to Seoul, but also one hundred marines have been landed from U.S. warships to protect the U. S. Legation at Seoul, the Korean Government having notified the foreign diplomatic representatives that it declines to be responsible for the discipline of the Korean troops.

A riot occurred at the Amoy race meeting on the 7th inst., endangering European spectators, who were stoned. The races were stopped. A quarrel between a Sikh policeman and a Chinese woman is supposed to have incited the mob. Europeans took refuge at the Grand Stand. Sailors from H.M.S. *Rambler* and residents helped to quell the disturbance. All is now quiet.

There was an extraordinary demand for Cardiff coal at home on the 5th inst., and also for tonnage to the Far East. In addition to six large vessels previously chartered by one firm for Japan, four others were fixed on Monday. The Admiralty also is asking for further tonnage for Hongkong, and other Eastern depots. The Admiralty agents paid 20/- per ton for 5,000-ton vessels for Hongkong.

The Japanese War Office Department issued, on the 5th inst., an official notification prohibiting the newspapers until further notice, from publishing the movements of troops or anything in any way calculated to disclose the strategical plans of the Japanese Army or Navy. Owe Kobe correspondent, telegraphing this, adds:—This step shows that the Japanese Government regards the situation as practically amounting to a state of war.

The officers of the Russian Squadron at Bizerta en route for the Far East gave a brilliant reception on the 2nd inst., at which the most cordial toasts were exchanged; the French Resident expressed the unchangeable affection of France for Russia. The squadron was to leave next day, but the departure was postponed. Meanwhile Five Russian destroyers left Malta (where they had gone into dock) for the Far East on the 4th inst. The Sebastopol squadron also received orders to leave for the same destination.

Our Singapore, correspondent telegraphs on the 8th inst.;—Much lawlessness and a prevalence of gang robbery exists in Perak, which is attributed to the numbers of mining coolies thrown out of employment owing to the low price of tin. The gambling and pawn farms have been attacked near Gopeng by 20 armed Kabs, who secured \$3,200. Rewards have been offered for their apprehension, and the Police are now watching all the farms. The Police attacked some cattle-thieves near Gopeng, and a fight ensued in which one constable was fatally wounded. The thieves escaped.

The legal formalities connected with the transfer to Japan of the Argentine cruisers now called *Nyasin* and *Kasuga* are completed. The Japanese Legation in London said, on the 4th inst., that the work on them continues day and night, and when they sail they will be ready for action. One hundred and fifty Japanese officers and sailors left London for Genoa on the 4th inst., while one hundred and twenty British Reservists, recruited by the Shipping Federation, with ten officers have left London since to assist in the navigation of the cruisers. There was much enthusiasm and cheers for Japan on the men leaving Victoria. The *Nyasin* and *Kasuga* have left for Suva.

THE NORTHERN CRISIS.

(Daily Press, 6th January.)

"The Japanese Government regards the situation as practically amounting to a state of war." This is the alarming conclusion which our Kobe correspondent draws from the notification issued yesterday by the War Department at Tokyo, prohibiting the newspapers from publishing the movements of troops or anything calculated to disclose strategical plans. And indeed it is hardly possible to draw any other conclusion from this ominous step. Compared with such action on the part of the Japanese Government, news of a pacific nature arriving from St. Petersburg or from Paris and Berlin, inspired by St. Petersburg, counts but little. We have before spoken of the unwisdom of trusting much in the peaceful prophecies which have their origin in the Russian capital. It was only too obviously to Russia's interest to persuade the nations, most of them readily credulous, that she desired only peace. As long as Tokyo remained hopeful, prospects were fair; when doubts succeeded, there was ground for fear; and now it must be admitted that the "cloud in the East" looks terribly dark. A rather significant departmental change in Japan is to be noted in a telegram from Tokyo to the *North-China Daily News* on the 29th December, which stated that an amendment issued from the Imperial Military Headquarters places the Naval Department on an equal footing with the General Staff, which hitherto had precedence. It is interesting in this connection to mention that we have just been enabled to see an opinion on the position in the North at the end of last year by an authority (neither Japanese, Russian, or British, we may mention) well competent and in a position to gather the state of affairs. In the first place he did not believe in the likelihood of an outbreak before the spring. The Japanese Navy, however, was anxious to act at once, but the Army was in favour of delay. The eagerness of the Navy is easily explicable, when we recall the presence of the Eastward-bound Russian squadron in the Mediterranean. Whether the extra weight now given to the Navy Department has produced any change in the situation is perhaps worth consideration. There is certainly very great strength in the argument which we have attributed to the Japanese Naval experts, if war is inevitable. In this unhappy event, it is essential that Japan should not wait for the Russian fleet to outnumber hers. Should war break out at this moment, Russia's reinforcements cannot reach the Far East, for want of coal, which the demands of neutrality must prevent any nation's coaling-stations from supplying to her, under penalty of bringing into operation the Anglo-Japanese Alliance. As friends of Japan we must hope that, if war cannot be prevented, it may commence at once and enable Japan to put the Russian fleet out of action. Nevertheless we still hold that Britain and the United States, if they had some time ago acted in the harmony for which their community of interests called, could have averted a struggle; whether it is now too late, we cannot say.

(Daily Press, 9th January.)

The air has hourly become thicker with rumours and, in the absence of authentic news, with rumours more and more alarming. Amid these there are certain tangible facts, one of which is that H.M.S. *Humber* is ready to leave for the North at once with 250 of the Sherwood Foresters on board. This was rumoured very late on Thursday night and confirmed yesterday morning. She did not, however, sail as

expected. Beyond the fact that the *Humber* is northward bound, nothing certain can be elicited as to her destination. Among various suggestions hazarded there is one that she is bound only for Amoy. It is not, however, probable that there is a call there for British troops when marines would serve the purpose of coping with disturbances equally well. Next there is the possibility of Weihaiwei being the destination; but 250 men would be an entirely inadequate number for Weihaiwei were there a need to garrison the place. Newchwang being ice-bound, it is not likely that a demonstration there will be attempted, especially as this would be an extreme step unless something very serious had occurred, of which we have no intimation. The favourite theory is that the Sherwoods are bound for Peking. But why? The Legation garrison at Peking is ample, there are reinforcements within easy reach, and no particular danger is known to threaten the Chinese capital or the European residents in it. If we must venture a guess, it must be that the possibility of having to protect the British Legation at Seoul is contemplated. If troubles break out immediately or in the near future, Korea is the assured scene of the first outbreak, and there is no guarantee of the safety of foreign residents in that country amid the complications which must occur. [Since writing this we see from a telegram in *North-China Daily News* that one hundred U.S. marines have been landed at Seoul, where the Government is in a panic.] If we are right in our guess, the *Humber* will no doubt proceed to Weihaiwei first, but not with the view that the Sherwood Foresters shall stop there in garrison for long. It must be confessed, however, that the secret of the past week's naval and military movements remains one locked up in the hearts of the high naval and military authorities. All that outsiders can know is that great preparations have been going on in Hongkong, which are undoubtedly connected with the movements at home such as those announced in REUTER'S telegrams published in to-day's issue, by which it appears that the British Admiralty is acting with extraordinary vigour. Not only, moreover, is the Admiralty busy, but the rest of England is decidedly stirred. What are we to make of the 120 British Reservists, with ten officers, leaving, amid enthusiasm and cheers, for Genoa to man the two newly-purchased Japanese cruisers, which are to sail for the Far East soon and require men to navigate them hither? This is an indication of feeling which we can hardly believe will pass unnoticed by Russia. The strength of the pro-Japanese feeling is plainly growing daily, and the advocacy of active assistance has been carried on for some time in more than one London journal. For ourselves we can only repeat what we have said before, that we think the best preservative of peace would be a strong show of determination on the part of Great Britain, and also, if possible, of the United States. With regard to the latter, a representation has already been made to the House of Representatives favouring the establishment of U.S. Consulates at Moukden and Antung, which China has promised the United States to throw open. Were Britain now to bring vigorous pressure to bear upon Korea to have the required ports opened to commerce, the effect could but be beneficial on the situation. The presence of a few British warships in Korean waters and the possibility of a Legation guard at Seoul would be all that is required. And herein, it must be remarked, we are not counselling war; but we are convinced that war can

most readily be averted by such means. We recognise that Britain has little or nothing to gain in Korea. Only Korea closed, and in Russian hands, means the extinction of all but Russian influence in North-east Asia. Britons have every reason to wish to see Japanese aspirations in Korea fulfilled, even did they extend so far as to include the absorption of Korea by Japan. But we do not believe that Japan desires the conquest of Korea. The Tokyo correspondent of the *Times*, in an article which appeared last month, summed up the position thus:—"Certainly the earnest wish of Japan is to maintain a strictly correct attitude in the sight of the world. She is determined that Korea shall not fall into foreign hands, but she would fain attain that end by recourse solely to the most highly-civilised weapons of modern influence—railways, telegraphs, commerce, and industry. She wants to keep cannon-balls out of the account." This appears to us a thoroughly sound estimate of the situation. But, as the *Times* correspondent adds, the danger is that events may prove too strong for Japan. And it is for this that Britain must be prepared.

GREAT BRITAIN AND CHINESE RAILWAYS.

(Daily Press, 5th January.)

In his paper read before the Royal Geographical Society in London on the 23rd November last, Lieutenant-Colonel C. C. MANIFOLD, dealing with the subject of "Recent Exploration and Economic Development in Central and Western China," dwelt especially on the potentialities of the Upper Yangtze Valley and the province of Szechuen. He pointed out that at present foreign commerce in Szechuen is represented by a single resident British merchant, two French, and several Japanese merchants, and there are two Chinese agencies of British firms. The province contains all the elements for a great manufacturing development. It possesses vast mineral wealth; silk, wool, and hemp offer opportunities for the development of textile industries; paper might be manufactured, and oil and sugar produced, while there is an abundance of cheap skilled and industrious labour. The rich Upper Yangtze regions, he continued, above all others in China afford the greatest opportunity for the development of British commerce, but it is only by studying the problems of communication and distribution that this extensive field can be opened up to British trade. Our London evening contemporary the *Globe*, which always takes a keen interest in Chinese affairs, commenting on Colonel MANIFOLD'S remarks, insists that "there has never been a time in our history when access to fresh markets was more imperatively necessary. In these days, when the tariff wall is rising higher and higher round us, and one European nation after another closes its doors to our exports, we must go farther and farther afield if we are not to be starved to death while doctors debate as to the symptoms and cure of the disease. . . . If the natural and also the artificial barriers to trade on the Upper Yangtze could be removed, a demand for British manufactured goods would give an impetus which would be felt through all the arteries and veins of our industrial fabric. But to bring about anything like an adequate expansion of our trade, or to give a fair chance for China to develop her resources, Colonel MANIFOLD is convinced that water transit is inadequate. The process of tranship-

"ment necessitated by the rapids above Wan-hsien and elsewhere is a serious hindrance to trade; and it is becoming more and more important as the volume of trade increases that a line of communication should be found giving greater security, and a more regular and easy means of transit than is obtainable by water."

If only the British Government were as designing and far-seeing as it is credited with being in some of the rival nations of Europe, the matter would be easy. According to Russian papers, for instance, Britain is already planning to secure the sovereignty of Tibet and by building a railway through that country to reach the head-waters of the Yangtze. The *Bourse Gazette*, a prominent Russian journal, says that what the British mean to do is to carry out their plan of a railway from India to the Pacific through the richest central provinces of China, a plan laid aside for the time being in 1899, owing to the Boer War imbroglio and now to be resuscitated. This railway will kill the Russian Railway in the Northern Province, and will nullify the railway constructed by the French from Tonkin for the same purpose of tapping the vast resources of the rich valley of the Yangtze. Moreover the *Bourse Gazette* says that not only will the British railway kill the Manchurian line commercially, but it will nullify the strategic importance of the Russian undertaking. "India," adds the Moscow paper, "is not only the basis of British trade in Asia, it is also the centre of Great Britain's military power. At the present moment the existing network of railways allows the British to throw in something like seventy hours an enormous army from Delhi and Lucknow into Assam. With the completion of a line through the Yangtze Valley, England will be able to throw troops to any part of China in about another twenty-four hours." All this sounds very plausible to anyone who only sees the British Government through the glasses of the foreign newspaper writer. But, alas! in China we only know too well how mistaken it is to credit the home authorities with foresight in Far Eastern affairs. The best hope in the present situation is that Lord Curzon is at the head of the Indian Government, and he is a practical statesman. But the question of an Indo-Tibetan railway to the Upper Yangtze is one before which the boldest statesman must pause. We do not even know to what extent a line through Tibet would be practicable. If it be so, there is no doubt that it would offer Britain a means of regaining her lost influence in China. If we cannot obtain some line running into Central China, there is no hope, now that other nations have secured for themselves all the best concessions, of our keeping even a fair share of the trade of the future in this part of the world. We must tap China from the South-west. Whether this is to be done through Yunnan or through Tibet, it is essential that we penetrate into Szechuen and on to the Yangtze. The penalty of non-success will be ultimate commercial extinction. Every traveller who has visited Szechuen and its neighbourhood testifies to the vast opening for European trade. Other Powers are not going to wait for Britain to do the opening. It is a race, if a slow and difficult one. Private enterprise will not undertake the task—if it is not equal to the Kowloon-Canton railway, it is not likely to tackle the Yunnan line—and unless the Government steps in, no progress is possible. The question, however, is a national one, of the highest importance, and those in authority who neglect it will be dealing an irreparable blow to their country.

GERMANY, RUSSIA, AND OTHERS.

(Daily Press, 7th January.)

In the period, now happily past, when British politicians used to declaim about their country's "splendid isolation," the Continental Press did not devote much attention to the question of the possibility of Great Britain being counted a power in European political alliances. The boasted isolation had the effect of putting Britain rather in the place of a common foe than in that of a potential friend, a position which at one time during the South African War threatened to embarrass the British Government most seriously, and might indeed have led to terrible complications had the success of our arms been much longer delayed. Since then Britain's foreign policy has materially altered. Not only have we formed an alliance with Japan in the Far East, but in Europe closer relations with France have been cultivated. The latter fact naturally has not escaped the attention of Russian journalists, who perhaps more than other Continental publicists at the present day have taken up the consideration of the question whether, after all, Britain is not one of the most important factors in future European combinations. Moreover, if we are to believe what we read, in spite of the bitter hostility of St. Petersburg journals generally to Great Britain and all manifestations of British policy, there is a party in Russia which hopes that Anglo-Russian reconciliation is not out of the question. This hope has been expressed of late in the Port Arthur newspaper *Novy Krai*, which, as being under the control of Admiral ALEXIEFF, would hardly perhaps be thought to be kindly disposed to the ally of Japan. Nevertheless, it seems so. And a spirit of friendliness toward Britain naturally involves a modification of attitude toward others—or at least one other nation. One of the most recent articles in our Port Arthur contemporary went into a consideration of Germany's Eastern policy, starting off with the statement that the position of "splendid isolation," abandoned by Britain, has been taken by Germany, who sees now a danger in its turning into one of gloomy solitude. For this, says the *Novy Krai*, Germany can ask for no sympathy, for she has driven away the nations disposed toward union with her. "It is nobody's secret that she is very anxious to lead Russia into war in the Far East, and that she is alarmed at the possibility of a drawing together between Russia and England, which she is trying by every means to prevent. Russia involved in war would leave Germany at liberty to accomplish her desires in the Near East, while an Anglo-Russian rapprochement would upset her plans completely. As no success seemed likely to attend her intrigues to bring about a war or to prevent the rapprochement, Germany tried to secure France's co-operation in the Bagdad Railway." It being shown that Germany absolutely refused to admit other Powers participating on equal terms in this railway scheme, "all eyes were opened and the whole world to-day is agreed as to the nature of German policy, which GIBSON BOWLES defined in the English Parliament as 'Intrigue in politics, deceit in finance'—we do not recognise the exact quotation. "The Cabinets of Paris, London, and Rome also are equally opposed to exclusive German influence on the Bosphorus. All the Powers have before them to-day the problem of protecting themselves, of protecting Turkey and Europe against German designs. If a Russo-Franco-English triumvirate is formed, there is no doubt that it will set itself

the solution of this problem, and then it will be all the worse for Germany."

Thus writes the *Novy Krai*, and the point of view seems to us interesting, as well as unusual up to now in the Russian Press. It would require a very profound study of Central European politics to know what grounds there are for the opinions advanced. It seems to us that, as far as Great Britain is concerned, the position is this. For many years, and for many reasons, Britain has been eager to be on the best terms with Germany; indeed at one time there was no ally who would have been more popular. But, in spite of the friendship of individuals, among whom we may class the Kaiser himself (in spite of all indiscretions, telegraphic or oratorical), the policy of Germany in recent years has succeeded consistently in alienating the British nation and has inspired absolute distrust. Russia, on the other hand, never appealed to the sympathies of the British nation. Refusing like France and Germany to swing the censor before the Juggernaut (to borrow Dr. DILLON's expressive phrase in the December *Contemporary Review*), we had no alternative but to oppose Russia with all our power. Nevertheless with Russia, being an open enemy and not an assumed friend, reconciliation has never seemed impossible, could a ground for agreement be discovered. Lately, as the ally of France, Russia must still more claim our consideration. But her unceasing aggression in regions where we are vitally interested, if it goes on unchecked, precludes any drawing together. Speaking for ourselves, in spite of our constant opposition to Russia, we should be perfectly willing to reciprocate the wishes of the *Novy Krai*, did we see a prospect of change in Russia's policy of unscrupulous greed and of abandonment of her generally barbarous methods. But do nations reform thus, save in enormous periods of time? Did Russia begin to act up to her professions, we might almost believe so in her case.

THE CURRENCY QUESTION.

(Daily Press, 6th January.)

It will be noted from REUTER's telegram of the 3rd instant that the Mexican Monetary Commission has reported in favour of a gradual adoption by Mexico of a gold standard. This Commission is the one which, in company with a Commission from the United States, paid a visit to the principal capitals of Europe and discussed with the representatives of the various countries the world's currency question. The report to the Mexican Government, which will no doubt adopt its recommendations, is the first-fruits of the joint tour, and begins what we may hope is the last chapter but one in the history of the monetary standards of the world. The last chapter, needless perhaps to say, will begin with the adoption by China of a gold standard and the consequent universal recognition of the one metal. When Mexico has joined the majority, practically only China and Hongkong will be left outside. By the wisdom of our rulers at home this Colony is condemned to wait upon China. China's present position is as follows. By Article II. of the MACKAY treaty of 1902, it is provided that "China agrees to take the necessary steps to provide for an uniform national coinage which shall be legal tender in payment of all duties, taxes, and other obligations throughout the Empire by British as well as Chinese subjects." But, in spite of this, we know of no definite step having been taken to bring about this necessary reform. Sir ROBERT HART, Inspector-General of the Imperial

Maritime Customs, has indeed recommended a scheme to the Government, which we reproduced in these pages some time ago; but there has been no indication that Peking has looked favourably upon it. An uniform silver currency will not do away with China's monetary troubles, though its adoption will be a move in the right direction. The absurdities of exchange between the various provinces will cease, but the tollar will not cease to respond to the rise and fall in the price of silver and the other smaller factors which contribute to the instability of the dollar. It is something gained that the Chinese Government has had the currency question presented to its eyes, and it is to be hoped that the latest development in Mexico will be duly impressed on China by outside advisers. Undoubtedly it is a most important development that the great silver-producing country of the world should contemplate "going gold." No less than four-fifths of the whole area of Mexico (which is over eight times the size of Great Britain, it must be remembered) are mining districts, and 45 per cent. of Mexican exports consist of silver and gold. The latest figures to which we have access give the silver production of Mexico as 45,641,000 ounces. The best idea of the importance to Mexico of silver might be obtained, had we any means of computing how many Mexican dollars are in circulation in the Far East; but the task would be too stupendous, even though the receptive countries are now cut down to China—and Hongkong. The fact that the Commission of experts appointed by Mexico thinks fit to advise the gradual conversion of their country to the side of the gold-standard states, though the minting of dollars is of course no small profit to Mexico, shows how convinced they are that stable currency tends to the benefit of the whole world. This being so, and their opinion being shared by all the great nations, the question remains, when is China coming into line?—a question to which the bulk of the residents in Hongkong above all others would like to know the answer.

THE RAILWAY AND THE SABBATH.

(Daily Press, 4th January.)

We publish to-day in our correspondence columns a protest forwarded to us from Canton by the Missionary Conference, in which the signatories express their "unfeigned regret and deep disapproval" of the recent opening of the Canton-Fatshan branch railway line on a Sunday. We gladly accede to the request of the Conference to publish the protest, but at the same time we cannot refrain from saying that the objection seems to us a little unreasonable. In the first place, we are not aware that the Canton-Hankow Railway is a Christian enterprise. As a matter of fact, we know of no railway that is. Religion and railways are not even remotely connected. The organisers of this new railway are not building it to further Christianity (we could not undertake to say whether they even wish to), but to make money. They and their agents do not deserve unfriendly criticism for selecting a day most convenient for them, and more particularly for their guests. The only real objection that could be urged would be that their action hurt the susceptibilities of the people of Canton; the European residents, that is to say. But did it hurt them? Apparently a certain number of missionaries were offended. One might be tempted cynically to say that it is their business to be offended in this matter, did

one not believe in the sincerity of their protest. We have heard of no one else in Canton who thought it a matter for regret or disapproval that the line to Fatshan should be opened on a Sunday. As for the natives, it naturally makes no difference to them on what day, not a festival day, a foreign enterprise is inaugurated. The Missionary Conference speaks, in the protest, of a belittling of the teachings of Christianity in the minds of the Chinese. If the Chinese took the trouble to study the "Sabbath" keeping of the foreigners who come out to this part of the world, they would certainly come to the conclusion that railway-opening is a very venial offence compared with the mass of breaches of the day made by their Christian visitors. The "Sabbath," as a Sabbath, does not exist in the foreign settlements of China. It is true that most people do not go to their offices on that day. They may go out and kill birds, may golf or yacht or walk, may play bridge, or may "lie off," as the expression runs; but what percentage of them reflects on the question of Sabbath or no Sabbath? Such non-observance of the day should really give far more pain to these excellent missionaries than the formal opening of a railway. No doubt the fact of its being a public ceremony directs their disapproval publicly to it. But, as we have said, a railway is not Christian. Sunday was chosen as being the only day on which some of the invited guests could put in an appearance. The presence of representatives of the British and United States Governments is especially regretted by the Conference. These "ignored the established practice and Christian sentiment of their home lands, and by their attendance at this function violated the sanctity of the Sabbath in a way which would not have been permitted in our home lands." The latter part of the statement may be challenged. Sunday banquets and formal excursions are certainly not unknown in England and America. We do not know that a railway has even been declared open in either country on a Sunday; it certainly is not impossible. The absence of British and United States representatives would have been merely foolish and would in no way have advanced the Christian sentiment of the home lands of H.E. Mr. MAY or Mr. McWADE. We fear that the Missionary Conference is only beating the air in attacking this question. The signatories have a right to their honest convictions. But the problem which really confronts them is larger than one of formal opening of a railway on a Sunday. For instance, it might be looked on, in one aspect, as the question whether either the British or United States Government is Christian in the true sense of the word. Into this we do not propose to go here.

The N.-C. Daily News correspondent, under date Kobe, 24th December, telegraphs:—"The Taichu Maru and Fukuoka Maru, belonging to the Osaka Shosen Kaisha, and the Chiyo Maru, Asosan Maru, Ariake Maru, and Mandensan Maru, belonging to other owners, have been chartered to convey coal and supplies. There is unusual activity at the arsenals and naval centres, also at Kumamoto, the headquarters of the Sixth Division of the army. There is to be an extraordinary meeting of the Cabinet to-morrow." The same paper's Tokyo correspondent on the 27th ult. said:—"An extraordinary meeting of the Privy Council is to be held on Monday forenoon (28th), to be attended by all the Ministers. An Imperial tiffin will be given to-morrow (28th) to the Privy Councillors and Ministers. The significance of this must be apparent. In the afternoon the Ministers will discuss certain urgent measures."

HONGKONG JOTTINGS.

(Daily Press, 4th January.)

The Christmas and New Year holidays have passed off in Hongkong in the usual fashion, no startling novelties in the way of entertainments being introduced. Indeed such are not needed. The season is one of private tiffins and dinners, diversified with a few enjoyable dances and some sporting events like the H.K.C. fixtures, the Polo international, etc. One thing that may be said of this Christmas is that the weather has been all that could be desired, both bright and charming. It seems also to be healthy enough, from the little one bears of illness. Even the time-honoured (and once, we must suppose, funny) joke about Christmas fare seems this year to glance off our robust forms like water off a duck's back. The only man I have heard complain was not a Hongkong resident, but a visitor from another place. He said that his wife went to so many dances in one week that he, who did not dance, had to cultivate a perpetual thirst, the refreshment room being the only refuge from the hall-room. Of course in Hongkong we all dance.

It is not only the foreign community that has been holiday-making at this season of cheer and goodwill. There is one community from which all abstention from their avocation comes as a very great surprise—this more so when one thinks of their lost opportunities! The community referred to is the criminal class. The absence of all law-breaking, except in the way of petty offences, has been remarkable. The Magistracy has been almost deserted, and the magistrates themselves have come very near earning a daily pair of white gloves. Long may such a condition of affairs last, but my experience of the Oriental makes me just pessimist enough to fear it won't, though it won't be for lack of police effort in that direction.

At the very successful Ball given by the Centipedes on Tuesday last at the City Hall, the ravages of the military spur were very apparent. The ladies' dresses suffered greatly on this occasion, and to a considerable extent at the previous Bachelors' Ball also. It is very mortifying to the fair sex to see their new dresses, if only of a diaphanous material, torn to ribbons by the uncompromising spur. Surely field officers entitled to wear this mark of distinction could on such occasions take out the rowels and insert round discs in their place. This would be a concession the ladies would greatly appreciate.

I am glad to note the High Level Tramway Company have adopted my suggestion and put up notices in the terminus at S. John's Place to the effect that "Tickets may be had on the Car." This information will, I hope, prove sufficient to relieve the anxiety of strangers intending to make the trip to the Peak.

I wish the Government would act as promptly in reference to my suggestion re that most unsightly rubbish heap below S. Patrick's Hall. That seems to be growing rather than diminishing. Would not the material be useful for reclamation purposes?

It is surprising the number of travelled Chinese one meets in Hongkong and the neighbourhood. Over in the New Territory you will find them in every village. They are looked upon as prodigies by their countrymen. They will talk with familiarity of Sydney and Melbourne or the cities of the Pacific coast, as the case may be. A curious thing about them is that they are shy of speaking English in the presence of their own people, though if one meets them singly they generally show a thorough knowledge of that language. One very old man I met recently had lived for twenty years in New Zealand and had returned to his own country about the same number of years ago. He had forgotten how to talk English connectedly, but was able to tell the English names of any articles pointed out to him.

As is pretty well known, the Chinese revere nobody so much as the man who shows by the length of his grey beard that he is the grandfather of numbers of grandchildren—the more, so much the better. Curiously enough, the Chinese beggars turn this to their advantage. A venerable-looking old man was holding forth in eloquent fashion, in one of the bye-streets off Queen's Road the other night, to the effect that he had a grandson who had treated him ill. His plaint drew round him a small crowd of sympathising listeners, who lavished upon him a plenitude of cash and cents. Then two Europeans came along and joined in the throng. One of them apparently "smelt a rat," for he thrust forward his hand and got hold of the old mendicant's beard, which came off, leaving the clean chin of a lusty coolie; then followed a tug at the moustache with like results. The Chinese who been duped laughed as loudly as those who laughed at them, and the sham grandfather fled up a side alley as fast as his legs could carry him.

Standing on Blake Pier the other day, I happened to over-hear a fragment of conversation between two skippers, who had just landed from their respective boats, and it struck me that the first speaker was advocating a very good move. His contention was that when a vessel carried only a mate and a second mate the captain should take the dog-watch. He stated he invariably did it himself, as it made things a bit easier for the mates, and he said it ought to, and he hoped it soon would, be the universal rule throughout the Mercantile Marine. The other speaker, while not entirely disagreeing with No. 1, said he thought it should be left to the skipper himself to do as he thought proper in the matter, and not enforce the innovation by any hard and fast rule. No doubt when only two mates are carried it was a bit hard for them, and, said No. 2, in most cases when a skipper realised this, he would voluntarily help them along. But two sea-dogs chatting on a pier won't work a revolution. A "Skipper's Club" is the channel to make for.

BANYAN.

REAR-ADMIRAL STIRLING, U.S.N., AT HONGKONG.

Rear-Admiral Stirling, from the U.S. flagship *Rainbow*, paid an official visit to H.E. Mr. F. H. May, C.M.G., at Government House on Thursday morning. The Rear-Admiral, accompanied by Lieut. Palmer, flag-secretary, and Lieut. Stirling, son of Rear-Admiral Stirling, flag-lieutenant, arrived to Blake Pier, in the *Rainbow's* steam-boat, shortly before eleven o'clock. He was received there by U.S. Vice-Consul Hobbins and by a guard of honour with band, from the Sherwood Foresters. The Rear-Admiral returned the general salute, and proceeded to Government House in the U.S. Consul's chair, carried by the stars-and-stripes-robed coolies. Rear-Admiral Stirling arrived here from Manila by the *Rainbow* on the 5th inst., as has already been recorded in the *Daily Press*. The *Rainbow* went into dock on the 6th. It sounds somewhat peculiar that the flagship *Rainbow* was once upon a time the British cattle-steamer *Norse King*, trading between Liverpool, Antwerp, and New York. She is not regarded as a fighting craft, but as a large, comfortable ship from whence to direct the movements of the southern squadron of the U.S. Asiatic fleet. Rear-Admiral Stirling arrived to Manila by the U.S. first class battleship *Wisconsin* last June, and then took over command of the squadron; he has since then been pretty busy cruising in Philippine waters.

The Rear-Admiral paid only a formal call on H.E. Mr. May, lasting about ten minutes. The visit had been arranged for a couple of days before. The following cards were left at Government House:—Rear-Admiral Yates Stirling, U.S.N., Mr. Harry Mears Hobbins, Vice-Consul-General of the United States, Lieut. Leigh Carlyle Palmer, Lieut. Yates Stirling. Rear-Admiral Stirling may stay in Hongkong a fortnight or so.

GOVERNOR TAFT ON THE PHILIPPINES.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Manila, 1st January.

A RECORD OF PROGRESS.

Shortly before the departure of Governor Taft from Manila he stated in an interview with the correspondent of the *Daily Press*, that, while he greatly regretted leaving the Philippine Islands and giving up his part in the development of a system of government for so promising a people, nevertheless the present occasion was the most favourable that could be selected for the separation. He would prefer to remain chief executive of the new possessions, but President Roosevelt earnestly desired him to take over the duties of Secretary of War on the resignation of Mr. Root, and that settled the matter. The retiring Governor stated that never in the history of the archipelago had conditions been so favourable. The scheme of government had been pieced together in much haste, often under adverse conditions of insurrection, famine, and pestilence, and mistakes were inevitable; but during the last year splendid progress was visible in every branch. The rough corners had been trimmed away, obstacles of language and location had been partly overcome through the rapid establishment of efficient schools and the expenditure of liberal sums in extensive roadways. The people were coming into closer relationship with themselves and with the Government. The excellent judiciary, with courts in every province, presided over by both American and Filipino judges, whose services were satisfactory in the great majority of cases, was fast teaching the people the dignity and justice of honestly administered law, and doing away with much of the corruption and prejudice which formerly attached to the court room. The treatment of outlaws and lardones as common criminals subject to ordinary law, instead of making them the subjects of summary executions, did away with all chances for hero worship and would-be martyrs, and was most satisfactory. Many of the death sentences were imposed by Filipino judges.

GENERAL PEACE.

It can safely be stated that there is general peace throughout the archipelago, said the Governor, when questioned on this much-discussed subject. Of course there are small disturbances from time to time in isolated districts, but these are unimportant, easily controlled, and may be expected for some time in a country recently harassed by insurrection and agricultural depression and peopled by widely varying races, who, in addition to other considerations, are being gradually disciplined under new laws, executed more or less by new and strange people.

The constabulary has taken up the work done by the army so well that the roving bands of outlaws which infested the productive provinces and robbed and killed their industrious countrymen have been pretty thoroughly cleaned up and hounded to a finish. Most of the leaders have been killed or captured, and many have been executed after regular trial before competent courts. For many months the fear of these lardones was so widespread, and with much reason, that the people refused to aid the authorities by giving information; but now dangerous characters or gangs of lardones scarcely approach a town before messengers are sent to the nearest constabulary, army, or scout-post to give the alarm. Much is heard of late of the "Moro question," but with proper handling there is little to fear from the Moros. Special legislation has been enacted for them, and with some modifications affairs will be well adjusted in the recently created Moro province, which at present is under the guidance of General Wood as governor.

AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS.

The wealth of the Philippines depends on agriculture, and this most important means of livelihood is slowly recovering from the unfortunate state into which it fell during the years of insurrection and pestilence. About one-half a million dollars was spent by the Government in the purchase of rice, which was shipped to the suffering provinces and paid as wages for work on public roads and other improvements,

which, besides relieving the distress, gave work to the idle. More money was spent in the fight for the extermination of destructive locusts which ruined the crops of several provinces.

During the year 1903 about \$100,000 were spent in the purchase of caribos for farming purposes. Most of this money went to China. The inoculation of the beasts has not been attended with a great measure of success and many died, though the recent shipments have apparently been of better stock and more improved methods of inoculation have been employed. Many imported caribos are now working in the depleted districts and giving satisfaction.

Large sums have been expended in the survey and construction of new provincial roads and in repair of old ones. These expenditures have been made from the three million relief fund appropriated by Congress.

The hemp-crop of last year was the greatest in the history of the Philippines, nearly one million bales being produced, and the Government is making efforts with the growers and shippers to improve the quality.

The sugar-crop was very large, but the reduction in the market price has handicapped producers and subjected them to the danger of heavy losses. The same may be said of the tobacco-crop, and the action of Japan, China, and Java in increasing the import duties has further hampered the industries. Unless Congress gives aid by reducing the tariff to twenty-five per cent. of the Dingley tariff, the farmers of the islands will be threatened with very heavy losses, and in many cases with absolute destruction. The Governor promises to do his best to influence Washington in favour of reduced duties on sugar and tobacco.

INSULAR REVENUES.

The income has been running a trifle low, the statistics showing a falling off of \$120,000, probably due to the provincial poverty largely caused by locusts and rinderpest.

A tariff revision board, appointed from the merchants of Manila, has been in session for some weeks, studying the subject carefully and listening to the opinions and complaints of many business men who have appeared before it. The work of the board will be largely concerned in correcting the inconsistencies and discrepancies of the present tariff and in making recommendations for the guidance of the Commission.

If no further action is taken the American coastwise law will apply in the Philippines after next July. This would work great hardship and be a very serious matter for the islands, to say nothing of the many old firms doing business in the archipelago. The Commission is of the opinion that the present condition of affairs should continue for some time longer until trade conditions have improved and water transportation is on a better basis. Anything which will tend to reducing trade and increasing rates would be as serious a menace to the progress of the Philippines as an interference with the arterial system of the human body.

There are many different points to be considered in the matter of coastwise trade laws, and while the Governor could not attempt a detailed expression of opinion in a brief interview, it is fair to assume that he favours the continuance of the present condition for at least five years longer.

PRIAR LANDS.

The purchase by the United States of the great agricultural holdings of the Friar orders and the introduction of American bishops to preside over the Church in all Christianised provinces has placed the whole religious situation on a vastly better basis. The Government will easily adjust the claims for rent and lease which have caused so much friction in the provinces. A new branch of the land law will have to be devised to control and provide for the disposal of the vast Friar estates.

The Aglipay schism is not a matter of much importance except in the provinces of Negras, Panay, Ilocos Norte and the Tagalog districts of Luzon.

THE ARMY.

The Governor believes that the present army of about 15,000 is a good minimum and may well be maintained in the Philippines, which while

involving a slightly increased expense, nevertheless provides a convenient and strategic location.

In conclusion the Governor said that the greatest needs of the Philippines were a little prosperity and a few quiet fair seasons together with a reduction of the tariff to twenty-five or better, fifteen per cent. This would show that the people of the United States want to and intend to help to bring the islands into closer relationship, thus building up a great trade, creating new markets, new wants, and new life.

JAPANESE AND RUSSIAN NAVAL EXPANSION.

The Japan correspondent of the N.C. Daily News writes:—

Russia's naval expansion is now nearly completed, and the greater majority of those ships built according to the programme are now afloat in the Pacific. The remainder are to be finished by the end of 1905. The vessels thus awaiting completion are:—

Battleships ...	8 ...	111,300 tons.
Armoured Cruiser...	1 ...	8,000 "
Cruisers ...	6 ...	29,400 "
Gunboat ...	1 ...	1,316 "
Destroyers ...	11 ...	3,300 "
Torpedoes ...	8 ...	"
Submarines ...	3 ...	"

The above does not include those belonging to the programme set out for 1903 and after. On the other hand, the following nine Japanese warships, now being built, equipped or designed, will be gradually completed after 1903:—

Battleship ...	No. 1 ...	16,000 tons.
" ...	" 2 ...	16,000 "
" ...	" 3 ...	16,000 "
Armoured Cruiser ...	" 1 ...	11,000 "
" ...	" 2 ...	11,000 "
" ...	" 3 ...	11,000 "
Cruiser Otowa ...	" ...	3,048 "
Cruiser ...	No. 1 ...	5,000 "
" ...	" 2 ...	5,000 "

Total ...94,048 tons.

FIRE IN QUEEN'S ROAD.

At 3.15 a.m. on the 6th inst. a fire broke out in the jewelry shop of Chan Cheung Cheuk, carried on under the shop of Son Shing, at No. 98, Queen's Road Central, the whole premises being entirely gutted and damage, so far as could be estimated, done to the extent of \$14,000/dollars. Besides the jewelry Chan also dealt in miscellaneous foreign goods, and these were insured to the extent of \$12,000, the jewelry not being insured. As soon as the alarm was sent in to the Central Police Station, the first thing done was to telephone to have the water turned on, so that as soon as the Fire Brigade, under Chief Inspector Baker, and Mr. Macdonald, engineer of the Fire Brigade, arrived on the scene, which they did in a few moments after the alarm was given, they were enabled to set to work at once, and with the aid of the fire-escape soon had a stream of water playing on the roof, which was burning rapidly, and soon after collapsed, and the whole place was gutted. It was by a miracle that the fire did not spread to the adjoining houses, and it is entirely due to the yeoman service rendered by the Fire Brigade that the conflagration was confined to the one building. Had it spread to the next houses, it would have run like wildfire along the length of terrace, the houses there being old and easily combustible, and the damage done would have been enormous. The more credit is due to the Brigade through the fact that at the time of the outbreak there was a breeze blowing, favourable to the spread of the fire. The cause of the fire is believed to be due to the carelessness of a coolie who went to the second story to get some dried meat, carrying an ignited torch which he dropped, setting fire to some dry goods stored there. It is understood that a considerable quantity of jewelry was saved, as it was packed away in iron safes and boxes, which were fire-proof.

NOTES FROM THE BOTANIC GARDENS.

In the shrubbery at the east end of the grevillea walk are two or three specimens of *Reinwardtia trigyna*. This plant, which is more familiarly known under the name of *Linum*, makes a small shrub about 3 feet high and flowers most profusely at this time of the year. The flowers are very conspicuous, being bright yellow in colour and more than an inch across. The species is a native of the hilly parts of India, and it has also been found in China at Ichang and Chungking. It has been in cultivation in England since 1799.

Jasminum azoricum, a sweet-scented, white flowered species, is a good winter bloomer, and several specimens of it may be found in various parts of the gardens. The individual flowers are more than an inch in diameter, and as they are produced very plentifully towards the ends of the branches they make a fine show. The plant is a scandent bush of some 4 or 5 ft. high, and was introduced into England from Madeira in 1724.

A plant having a very curiously-shaped flat inflorescence and bearing the name *Combretum Laefingi* may be seen in the shrubbery in the statue plot. The flowers are in great numbers and are conspicuous by their yellow-coloured stamens. The species is a native of Brazil, and in Hongkong it forms a scandent shrub about 3 ft. high.

A free-flowering Hongkong shrub, *Justicia Adhatoda*, is now in flower, and a specimen planted on the bank immediately below the bandstand looks particularly well. The flowers are in spikes on the upper axils of the leaves, and are white, with the exception of a purple marking on the inside of the lower lip of the corolla. This plant has been known to cultivation in England for more than 200 years, as it was introduced into that country from Ceylon in 1699. It is found also in India and Malaya.

The total rainfall for last year amounted to 94.41 inches, which is nearly 8 inches above the average of the last ten years.

RICKSHA FARES IN THE NEW TERRITORY.

By a regulation made by the Officer Administering the Government in Council under the authority of the Licensing Consolidation Ordinance of 1887, the following shall be the fares for hire of rickshas on the Tai Po Road, beyond New Kowloon, in the New Territories. To 4th mile, single, 75 cents; return, \$1.00:—

Beyond the 4th to 6th mile, Single, \$1.20	Return, \$1.50
" " 6th to 9th " mile, Single, 1.75	Return, \$2.00
" " 9th to 11th mile, Single, \$2.00	Return, \$2.50

Twenty cents shall be added for each extra hour, or part of an hour, if the hirer causes the journey to take more than:—

1 hour for the first stage.	
2 hours " " return "	
2 " " " second "	
4 " " " return "	
2 1/2 " " " third "	
5 " " " return "	
3 " " " fourth "	
7 " " " return "	

Fares for journeys beyond the 11th mile to be a matter of previous arrangement in each case. The fares here set out to apply to one ricksha with three coolies from Tsinghsatui.

A Council of War was held at Tokyo on the morning of the 29th ult., at which there were present Count Katsura, Baron Terauchi, Count Oyama, Baron Kodama, and Admirals Yamamoto and Ijima. The conference was continued in the afternoon, and subsequently Baron Terauchi, Minister of War, and Admiral Yamamoto, Minister of the Navy, were received in audience. The Kobe correspondent of the N.C. Daily News, from which we take this, also adds:—Progress is being made in the negotiations for the purchase of the Great Northern Co.'s telegraph cable from Tsushima to Fusan. There has been further rioting in Corea, and it is spreading towards Seoul.

SOKUNPO VALLEY.

One of the prettiest of Hongkong's many pretty valleys is the valley of Sokunpo. It is also one of the most secluded. Lying midway between Happy Valley and Causeway Bay, the place should be well known to many who traverse Caroline Road. Yet such is not the case by any means. Travellers passing by on foot or in ricksha permit their gaze to feast on the artificial beauties of the Ewo demesne and its fine old trees with never a thought for the lovely valley that lies hidden on the other hand behind an unpromising exterior. The entrance to Sokunpo is not conspicuous. Along the side of a vegetable garden boasting a pool of water resembling a horse-pond runs a narrow pathway. Following this, one dives immediately into a fine avenue of trees, mostly camphor-wood, and soon emerges into the open with hills on every side, clad from base to crest with firs of greenest hue, grey boulders frowning out here and there upon the valley and lending wildness to the view. For all the world the spectator could imagine himself in Killarney or far north Inverness, so similar is the style of scenery. In this little isolated strath one feels apart from all the world. Huge hawks float about the hill-tops, too, adding the last touch of Highland semblance to Sokunpo. In the midst of this silent valley one feels not the least surprised to find a Chinese "city of the dead." It seems so appropriate to the place. In the early morning, when the sun ripens the aspect of the valley into a kind of mellowness such as only sunsets are supposed to give, the Chinese funeral train may on occasion be encountered, flanked by musicians who draw from their instruments dirges both weird and pathetic as they wend their way to the grave. Farther on there nestles amid a cluster of trees a lazy farmhouse whose occupants stay their several labours to gaze open-eyed at the unaccustomed stranger, while the barnyard fowls flutter into the undergrowth, the pigs gallop off with protesting grunts, and the inevitable dog barks defiance for a space, then scurries up the hill to a safe distance. Now the valley broadens out into a cultivable strip of land with a stream flowing down the middle. The opposite hillsides are terraced and verdant, rising to grim eminences that in this narrow dale appear higher than they really are. Then, before one realises that one has been traversing a semi-circular route, Caroline Road is debouched upon, and one is brought back to realism by the spectacle of the stern-looking prison that once was Belilios Reformatory and the hum of spindles from the prosaic square, brick cotton-mill.

THE HONGKONG POLICE AT CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR.

The police quarters at the Central station were en fête on the afternoon of the 4th, the occasion being a Christmas-tree party to the children of the members of the Hongkong Police force. The party was inaugurated by Captain Lyons, C.S.P., and Mr. Halifax, the latter of whom had kindly given up his quarters for the evening. The arrangements were made by Chief Inspector Baker with an able corps of assistants, the purchasing of gifts and delicacies for the delectation of the children being in the very capable hands of Mrs. Baker and Mrs. Hanson. As a result of their kindly co-operation a Christmas-tree worthy of the best Yule-tide traditions, laden with all that most appeals to the heart of childhood, stood invitingly in the middle of the verandah. By four o'clock a large gathering of little ones had assembled, their eager, happy faces all betokening their keen anticipation of the result of "the baring of the tree." Each little one present received a really handsome gift from the spreading branches, while some augmented theirs by winning prizes for races in the compound. That the efforts of all who had laboured for the success of this children's treat had turned out eminently successful was shown by the joyous shouts and delighted expression on the faces of the happy little throng, as games, races, and prize-receiving quickly followed each other. After partaking of dainty delicacies, and more substantial

refreshments, the party broke up at about 7 p.m. after a most delightful evening, the children showing in their farewells their great appreciation of the kindness of their hosts and hostesses.

On New Year's Eve a smoking concert was held at Tsimshatsui Station under the auspices of the Hongkong Police. Captain F. W. Lyons had granted facilities to the men in the matter of leave, and consequently they were able to attend in considerable numbers. Many guests were also present. For the occasion the station and grounds were beautifully decorated. The room in which the concert was held was hung with flags, on some of which appeared hand-painted sketches, the work of some of the Tsimshatsui men. Over the stage was a pictorial representation of the Hongkong flag, bearing the motto, "Success to our Captain and his lady." This was painted by Inspector Langley. Mr. E. R. Hallifax occupied the chair during the first part of the programme. Before leaving he took the opportunity of wishing the company a happy New Year, and his good wishes were responded to by the singing of "He's a jolly good fellow." During the later part of the evening the chair was taken by Chief Inspector Baker. There was no lack of talent; indeed some of the best entertainers in the Colony gave their services. Among those who supported the chairman were Inspectors Kerr, Ford, Langley, Withers, Acting Inspector Cameron, Messrs. J. J. Spooner, and McGregor. Mr. McLean acted as accompanist and gave every satisfaction. It would be invidious to pick out for special remark any one of the singers: they were all good and encores were frequent. The programme was sustained by Mr. Stevenson, "What an awful draught," Mr. Jack, "While I am with you," "Rose of Persia" and "My first wife," Mr. Varney, "The lost baggage man," Mr. Mitchell, "Lend me your fairy wand" and "Come to my heart again," Mr. Dockree, "The lighthouse keeper," Mr. Hoskins, "Sunshine above," "Sons of the Empire" and "Mona" Mr. Clark, "The lost chord" and "The Bugler," Mr. Rogers, "The society outcast," Mr. Burnett, "The society idol," Mr. Woode "What for?"; Mr. Beaumont, "Leave a little bit for me," Mr. Burgess, "Oh, the business" and "Silence reigned supreme," Mr. Gilbert, "Sing us one of the old songs, Geo ge," Mr. Jackson, "What a good job I wasn't there," Mr. Armitage, "I didn't like to," and Mr. Wisby "Won't you take me back to Dixey." The concert finished up a few minutes before twelve o'clock. Inspector Langley proposed the toast of the visitors (to which Mr. McGregor responded) and also the entertainers. An adjournment was then made to the refreshment room to await the incoming of the New Year. When the hour struck, there was the usual exchange of greetings and the company joined in singing "Auld Lang Syne." Before departing by special launch for Hongkong the visitors drank the health of Inspector Langley and the Tsimshatsui police for their kindness and hospitality. Inspector Langley was president of the committee which was in charge of the entertainment. Sergeant C. F. Aris made a capital secretary and the members of committee were Messrs. Kerr, Wilden, Boele, Jackson, Adley, Counsell, Parker, and Culliford. It only remains to be added that among those present was Sergeant Angus McSwayed, who had come out of hospital to attend the concert and make his last appearance as a member of the H.K. Police. On entering the room he got a hearty reception and on his going away he was followed by the best wishes of those present.

The N.-C. Daily News, quotes a Chêngtu despatch, reporting the arrival in that city in November of three German officers, one being a doctor, on their travels through south-western China. The party after visiting various places of interest in the city left for Yachou on the 28th November on their way, it is averred, for Tibet, which the members of the party intend to penetrate and, if possible, get through into India and so on southwards to Calcutta and thence by sea to Europe. While in Chêngtu the visitors were given a most friendly reception by Viceroy Hsi Liang and his subordinate officials.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 31st December.
FIRES.

Canton has been going through another epidemic of fires. Last week a magistrate named Chang, on returning to his home in the city, found only a heap of ashes where a large mansion had been. Seven lives were lost in this fire, a rather unusual event. In the Namkuan at about the same time there was a fire near the Wesleyan mission, but no lives were lost. More important than either of these was the outbreak at Messrs Watson & Co.'s store in Sha Kee, which occurred on Tuesday night at 8 o'clock. It has since transpired that the store was set fire to, as fire broke out in two places, which were connected by a train of kerosene. The fire was soon got under with the aid of the Shameen fire-brigade; but it was found that a good deal of damage had been done. The suspected parties, employees of the firm, have been handed over to the charge of the Namhoi magistrate. It may not be generally known that when thieves or house-breakers are caught red-handed, they have short shrift with the crowd. The *Kaifong*, or headman of the street, and his colleagues often take the law into their own hands, and the offender is either strung up to the nearest lamp-post or drowned by the infuriated populace. This might have been the fate of the criminals on Tuesday night, had they not made themselves scarce, but lynch-law prevails more particularly in the country districts, the towns being well provided with police.

TROUBLES IN KWANGSI.

News of a serious defeat sustained by the Imperial troops in Kwangsi has just come down. It is reported that 250 men have been killed and \$20,000 taken, presumably an ambuscade. The authorities in Kwangsi are beseeching the Viceroy to return, so it would seem that affairs are not going well in the western province. Shun cannot leave Canton for some time yet, but when he does it may be hoped that a final effort will be made to crush the rebellion.

From Shuntak news comes of the looting of a German mission chapel, but I have as yet no details.

NOTED BRIGAND CAPTURED.

Canton, 7th January.

A sensational capture was effected last week at Shui-bin, not far from Fatsan. For some time Ao Chan, a robber chief, has been terrorising the neighbourhood. This man was head over 3,000 robbers, and his power was almost unlimited in the district until the arrival of the present Viceroy. He levied toll on all boats passing up and down the river, and raised blackmail (of the old-fashioned Scots type) on the villagers, thus combining the occupations of pirate and brigand. All boats refusing to pay toll were pillaged, and the crews not unfrequently murdered, while robberies were committed with impunity on land.

At last the state of affairs became so bad that large rewards were offered for his person. These were lately increased, until they reached the enormous total of \$20,000 for his head, and \$25,000 if he were taken alive. About ten days ago a regiment was sent out to capture him, his hiding-place having been betrayed by an informer. A fierce fight, lasting fifteen hours, ensued, and finally, after several men had been killed, Ao was captured with seven companions. The fortunate official in command of the troops, a Colonel Li, will take half of the prize-money, the remainder being shared by the soldiers. On Tuesday morning Ao Chan and four of the others were beheaded; the remaining three men are still under examination. This affair is the talk of the town at present, and many travellers and merchants are breathing more easily at their deliverance from a bloodthirsty and powerful brigand. It seems strange that these events should go on so close to Canton. A glance at the map will show that the Shui-bin district is quite close to the provincial city. Apparently there is hardly a

district in the whole province which can boast of freedom from these pests.

FOOCHOW.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Foochow, 31st December.

WARSHIPS' VISITS.

The reaction after race week finds but dull news. The U.S. cruiser *Wilmington* was here for a week, and an excellent dance was given in the Club to the officers, who kindly lent a small string band for the occasion. H.I.G.M.'s gunboat *Luchs* has been and gone; whilst the Japanese cruiser *Takachiho* arrived a week ago and is still here—rumour has it to protect the Formosa cable in case of trouble with Russia. We noticed her sand-bags hung out all round the ship for an airing.

LOUISIANA PURCHASE EXPOSITION.

By the courtesy of the Commissioner of Customs the contributions to be forwarded this week to this exhibition from this port were on view. The lacquer furniture is by far the best item, as it is the largest. Models of Chinese figures and some very clever carved work are also prominent. But if what we saw represents the best work Foochow can produce we do not think visitors to this exhibition will be impressed very much. I understand it opens on the 1st May.

FOOCHOW CAMERA CLUB.

The annual Loan Exhibition is to be held next month (January). Exhibits, carriage paid, must be addressed to Hon. Sec, Foochow Camera Club, before the 15th January, both amateur and professional.

PORT ARTHUR.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

17th December.

RUSSIAN PAPERS ON JAPAN.

As I remarked in my last letter, the Russian papers are devoting a good deal of attention at present to Japan, not only political papers like the *Rusky Vedomosti* (which is now publishing a series of fine articles on Japan by the foremost of Russian journalists), but even comic and society papers. The well-edited *Niva* has, in one of its last issues, a short, moderate account of the present trouble with Japan, accompanied by good photographs of General Katsura, Minister President, and of General Kodama, "Commander-in-Chief of the Japanese army," these photographs being taken specially, it is stated, for the *Niva*.

The *Strekoza* (Dragon-flag) devotes the front page of its issue for the 2nd November to a coloured picture of a cook wearing the cap of a Japanese soldier and labelled "Japan." Corea is represented as a hen sitting on an egg, but Russia does not seem to come into the picture, which seems to me to be rather pointless. The cook is represented as in the act of crowing, and below the picture is the motto *Peremyna buiat* ("there will be a change"), and a short poem on that motto, which runs as follows:—

People not seldom
Are accustomed to say,
When the cock crows
That a change there will be.
The Japanese cock
Now splits our tympana
With its fearful outcry
About something or other.
It is dreadfully roused,
And sings out of tune,
And all we can ask is,
When will it stop?

LEARNING RUSSIAN.

The foreign population of Port Arthur is evidently not neglecting its chances to learn Russian, as two advertisements in the *Novi Krai* of the 9th December would seem to indicate. One is from an American who wants a room in a Russian family, with the object presumably of practising his Russian; and the other is from an Englishman, whose wants and objects are the same. This is undoubtedly the best way to learn the language. You sometimes come across kind Russian friends who speak English to you all the time and who propose to exchange lessons, but in spite of what one sacrifices by abandoning such friends, who are as a rule

very, very disinterested, and who furnish one with a lot of valuable information, one should abandon them if one wants to make the greatest possible progress. One is likely, by carrying out such a plan, to turn these friends into enemies and to lay oneself open to misconception, but if one has any strength of character at all, that will not deter one. The exchange of lesson system is not very good, as both parties are inclined to become terribly lazy and to delude themselves with the idea that they are making progress when, as a matter of fact, they are making no progress at all. If one pays a good teacher he generally wants to get value for his money, and accordingly works. Of course there are two sides to this question of language-learning, and I can well understand that some Russians—shop-assistants and other inoffensive persons—must suffer torments listening to foreigners murdering their beautiful language, and committing, with a smiling face, all kinds of grammatical atrocities.

FOREIGN MERCHANTS IN SIBERIA AND MANCHURIA.

It is surprising to what an extent the Americans have got hold of the trade in Eastern Siberia and Manchuria, although this surprise will probably lessen gradually. What will make it lessen will be the disappearance of the Americans, one by one. The American Trading Company has closed its branches here and in Vladivostok, and I suppose by-and-by only one American firm will be left—indeed I am not sure but that only one is left now. Thus will be closed that chapter of Siberian history which tells of American enterprise exerted in the opening up of the country.

A very interesting volume could, by the way, be made out of the experiences of American merchants in Siberia from the days of the old Russian-American Company until the present time. During the first attack on Petropavlovsk in 1854 by an Anglo-French squadron, two American residents of that town gave important information about the land approaches to Petropavlovsk to the English, who did not, however, profit much from it; and on the occasion of the second attack in the following year the allied fleet found that all the Russians had cleared out and that the American flag was the only one flying in the town.

In spite of the rapidity with which the Americans here generally learn the Russian language and of all the talk about the "traditional friendship," it cannot be denied that the action of the two American residents of Petropavlovsk is typical of the feelings of Americans in the Russian Far East. They feel that they are in the same boat as the English, and that the Russians are rather afraid of their commercial ability, so that the sight of the Union Jack is almost as welcome to them therefore from a commercial point of view as that of Old Glory itself.

The principal American firms in the Russian Far East are Messrs. Clarkson & Co. and the American Trading Company. As I have just remarked, however, the American Trading Company has closed its branches here.

The English are not as a rule prominent in Siberian trade. By the way, the head of a flourishing Danish company in Port Arthur bears the name of O'Reilly, which does not strike one as being Danish or Muscovite, although Gospodeen O'Reilly speaks both Danish and Russian with great fluency. Mr. O'Reilly, who is now in Japan, is shortly going to open business here on his own account.

The Germans, I think, take the foremost place among the foreign residents both as linguists and in the extent of their commercial operations. The proximity of the German and Slavonic races in place and in blood and the well known enterprise of the Germans explain this; but, while Russia certainly gains by the exertions of these Germans, it is not quite certain that the Fatherland itself benefits, for Germans seem to become Russified in Russia almost as quickly as they are Anglicised in England. The firm of Messrs. Kunst and Albers, the great bankers and storekeepers of Eastern Siberia, whose splendid premises are among the most prominent features of Vladivostok, Habarovsk, Port Arthur, and even Moukden, seem to be gradually becoming Russian, for one of their partners is a naturalised Russian and others connected with the firm seem, for business reasons (the right to buy land being one

of them), to be gradually following the same path; while the number of German names one meets with here among patriotic Russians, some of whom do not speak a word of German, is a proof that Germany is giving good men to Russia as well as to England and America. For you generally find these men with German names at the top of the tree. At the head of the Navy you find Vice-Admirals Stark and Stackelberg; at the head of the Army Staff you find General Pflug. Germans seem to leaven the whole mass of the population in this part of the world, as is shown by the extent to which the German language is spoken. About 20 per cent. of the Russians seem to speak it more or less, and one is constantly finding it come in handy in the most unexpected quarters. I once had an interesting conversation, for instance, with a private soldier who, being a Lett, spoke German—but a strange German it was—*Monat* (month) being pronounced as if written *Monheit* and various other old forms being used.

On my way to Port Arthur from Corea some time ago, I met a German who belonged to the German colony on the Volga, which numbers nearly half a million people, and of which the members are descended from immigrants who went to that region in the eighteenth century in response to the invitation of the Empress Catherine. It seems that this colony was promised the perpetual right of self-government, complete religious liberty, and freedom from liability to military service, but that, of late years, these privileges have been one by one withdrawn. The members of this colony are still, however, more German than Russian, remaining in language, in religion, in their domestic habits and social customs, the same as when they first came to Russia over a century ago. They still wear the old German costume, they are closely shaved, and in many respects form an indigestible morsel like the French settlers in Canada.

This is an exceptional case, however, for the Germans seem as a rule to adapt themselves quickly to Russian ways. I am afraid, however, that until the process of adaptation is completed, they are cordially hated by the common people. A Russian was once prosecuted for assault. "Why, he called me a German, your Worship," said the defendant, whereupon the judge dismissed the case, holding that such provocation was intolerable.

This degree of dislike, very surprising when met with in the kindly-hearted Russian peasant, in put down, I believe, to the effect of the operation of unscrupulous German-speaking Jews, of a low class, but powerful organisation. What truth there is in this charge I cannot tell; but this old prejudice, like many others, is like anti-clericalism in France, not an article of exportation. At least I do not find it in Port Arthur.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE SABBATH IN CHINA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Canton, 31st December.

SIR,—I am instructed by the Canton Missionary Conference to forward to you the enclosed copy of protest re Sabbath opening of Canton-Fatshan Railway, with the request that you will kindly publish the same.—Yours sincerely,

GEO. H. MCNEUR.

Hon. Sec., Canton Missionary Conference.
[ENCLOSURE.]

We, the undersigned missionaries and other representatives of the foreign community at Canton, desire to express our unfeigned regret and deep disapproval of the action of the Canton-Hankow Railway in fixing on the Lord's Day for the formal opening of the Canton-Fatshan Branch. We also regret that the representatives of the British and United States Governments should have ignored the established practice and Christian sentiment of their home lands, and by their attendance at this function have violated the sanctity of the Sabbath in a way which would not have been permitted in our home lands, and in a way calculated to belittle the teachings of Christianity in the minds of the Chinese. While expressing our emphatic disapproval of such a flagrant abuse of

one of the best blessings and highest privileges of our Christian nations, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we hail with joy the advent of the railway and all such advantages and advances in China's civilisation, and pray for the success of this and all kindred enterprises which tend to the bringing in of a brighter, better future for the people of this Empire.

(Sd.) Henry V. Noyes, Am. Pres. Mission; A. A. Noyes, Am. Pres. Mission; R. V. Noyes, Am. Pres. Mission; W. D. Noyes, Am. Pres. Mission; A. A. Fulton, Am. Pres. Mission; F. W. Fulton, Am. Pres. Mission; H. Lewis, Am. Pres. Mission; Mattie Chambers, Am. Bap. Mission; G. W. Greene, Am. Bap. Mission; V. P. Greene, Am. Bap. Mission; C. Dixon Cousins, London Mission; W. W. Clayson, London Mission; E. L. Clayson, London Mission; C. A. Nelson, Am. B'd Mission; H. C. T. Burkwall, Brit. & For. Bible Soc.; Flora Burkwall, A. G. Fisher, Am. Pres. Mission; A. W. Fisher, Am. Pres. Mission; Lucy Durham, Am. Pres. Mission; E. M. Bulter, Am. Pres. Mission; Mary W. Niles, Am. Pres. Mission; J. M. Wright, Ref. Pres. Mission; R. E. Chambers, Am. Bap. Mission; E. Z. Simmons, Am. Bap. Mission; M. D. Simmons, Am. Bap. Mission; J. E. Trainham, Am. Bap. Mission; H. Kirkhope, Prof. Kالجoorie School; T. J. Jostick, Am. Bap. Mission; E. I. Doty, U. Breth. Mission; Nellie L. Read, Am. Pres. Mission; E. M. Burlingame, Am. Pres. Mission; Mrs. H. K. Shumaker, U. Breth. Mission; Carrie E. Jostick, Am. Bap. Mission; E. A. Churchill, Am. Pres. Mission; Anna E. Nelson, Scand. Free Mission; Rankin Leslie, Sun Life Ins. Co. of Canada; Bessie Powell, London Mission; F. Larson, Scand. Free Mission; Annie M. Wood, Wesleyan Mission; Florence Britton, Wesleyan Mission; Holmes Keall, Wesleyan Mission; P. G. Todd, Am. Pres. Mission; Chas. E. Patton, Am. Pres. Mission; Regina M. Bigler, U. Breth. Mission; Andrew Beattie, Am. Pres. Mission; John M. Swan, Am. Pres. Mission; Minta Swan, Am. Pres. Mission; N. H. Beattie, Am. Pres. Mission; Harriet Noyes, Am. Pres. Mission; Elizabeth A. Doty, U. Breth. Mission; Anna W. Ericsson, Scand. Free Mission; Nellie Clark, London Mission; E. C. Tope, Wesleyan Mission; Chas. C. Selden, Supt. Refuge for Insane; Gertrude T. Selden; Wm. Mawson, New Zealand Pres. Mis.; S. M. Mawson, New Zealand Pres. Mis.; Maggie McNeur, New Zealand Pres. Mis.; Geo. H. McNeur, New Zealand Pres. Mis.

H.K.C.C. v. THE NAVY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 4th January.

SIR,—With reference to the cricket match last week, I should be much obliged if you would insert these few lines to correct the account in your youthful contemporary's issue of to-day. Because there were a number of ships in harbour, it does not follow that the Navy XI. was representative. It may have been difficult to choose an XI. from a great number of cricketers; but, however many were available, I should be prepared to back an XI. chosen from the *Algerine*, *Blenheim*, *Cressy*, *Rinaldo*, and *Rosario* against the one chosen from the ships present last Saturday. Elliott is the best Naval bowler and Moore the best bat, and Garde, Toulmin, Swan, Hawkins, Mahon, Silver, and Gurner form the nucleus of a very strong side. I fully recognise the strength of the Hongkong side, but I contend that the Navy were far from 'up to their full strength.'—I am, yours, etc.,
AN OLD CRICKETER.

WASHING THE MARKETS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 5th January.

SIR,—I note that the Hongkong markets are washed out in the morning, and I would like to add that this practice leaves them in a most disagreeable, sloppy condition for early purchasers; traffic over the wet ground, also, soon makes them in a very filthy condition. I am not aware of there being any reason why the markets should not be cleansed in the evening, after the shops are closed; this would give them time to get dry and respectable before morning.—Yours, etc.,

C. D.

CANTON-HONGKONG ICE AND COLD STORAGE CO., LD.

STATUTORY MEETING.

The statutory meeting of the Canton-Hongkong Ice and Cold Storage Co., Ltd., was held on the 7th inst. in the offices of the Company, Watkins Buildings, Hongkong. Mr. Russell Colegrove (president), U.S. Vice-Consul at Canton, presided, and there were also present Messrs. Chan A Fook (vice-president), Geo. A. Watkins, Tseng Yut Kai, Lai Tai Yu (directors), Chan A Tak (secretary), F. X. d'Almada e Castro (solicitor to the Company), C. Mooney, H. Colin McCreary and H. G. McKilligin.

The SECRETARY read the notice calling the meeting.

The PRESIDENT said—Gentlemen,—I have much pleasure in stating to you that after a few months' existence the company is in a most satisfactory condition. As is usual with all new enterprises, we have encountered many obstacles that were unexpected, yet most of the difficulties have been overcome, and notwithstanding the depression in financial circles, and the scarcity of money in South China, the majority of our shares have already been subscribed. Payments, while slow, have come in as required, and no subscriber has failed to respond when called upon. Ten thousand shares (\$100,000) were sent to Shanghai, the purchaser asking for sixty days' time, which was granted. Later the same party asked for an option on ten thousand additional shares at par, which was refused, as it was not considered wise to dispose of so large an amount at par. For the land purchased in Hongkong (Quarry Bay) \$40,000 was paid and the deeds are before you. I might add in connection with this property that the Company have an offer of \$45,000 for the land, which of course has been declined. At Canton, we have secured one of the most valuable pieces of property on the water-front. The sum of Tls. 20,000 was the agreed price to be paid for this site, on which are located three shops of three stories each. The rent of these shops will bring an income of some Tls. 600 per annum, and by reclaiming about 150 feet (which I have obtained permission to do) we not only have sufficient space for our factory, but will have doubled the value of our property. We have also obtained permits to construct a necessary wharf along the front of our land, which is a most important feature, and will be an immediate source of revenue. On this Canton property, a part of the purchase money was paid at the time of the transaction, and the balance is in hand, and will be paid over as quickly as the former owner, who has been ill for some time, is able to transact business. We are now in possession of the property. One-half of the purchase price of the machinery for both plants has been paid in New York. The balance is due when the machines arrive in Hongkong. The machinery has been built, and will be shipped upon the arrival of the contractors from New York city, who are expected here on February 1st. As this machinery is all ready to be set up, it will require but little time to be put into operation after arrival. The general outlook is most encouraging, and we have every reason to expect the Company to be the success claimed. (Applause.)

Mr. CHAN A FOOK having interpreted the President's speech for the benefit of the Chinese shareholders,

The PRESIDENT asked if there were any questions.

Mr. LAI TAI YU asked if the Viceroy's franchise had been obtained.

The PRESIDENT said that had been granted to Consul-General McWade on the previous day. The franchise from the Viceroy covered the franchise so far as the Chinese people were concerned. In view of the fact that the Viceroy had been sick and had refused himself to everyone, his secretary had requested them to leave that matter silent for the moment. The proposition was that in the event of plague or sickness in Canton or Kwangtung province the total output of the Company's fresh water would be given free to the Chinese people. All the officials in Canton had been extremely kind so far, and the concern was recognised as a public necessity. He added that there would be a special meeting in a very

few days in relation to matters that had already been discussed by the executive committee that morning.

Mr. WATKINS said he would like to have it made quite clear whether according to the articles of association subsequent general meetings would be held 12 months from that day. He took it that the financial year commenced from that day; that was to say, shares were running on interest from that day.

Mr. MOONEY thought that the financial year commenced from the date of the inception of the Company.

Mr. D'ALMADA, on being consulted on this point, said the next annual meeting should be held on 9th September, the date of the formation of the company.

There were no other questions.

Mr. COLIN MCCREARY proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the President for the manner in which he had carried out his arduous duties (Applause.)

The PRESIDENT remarked that he had had very great pleasure in carrying out the duties that had fallen upon him. They had entered into this business with the idea of making it a success, and he was not only encouraged but was confident that it would be the entire success that they had prophesied at the beginning. They had had more applications for ice and cold storage and so on in Canton than they could possibly supply. Their arrangements with the Viceroy and the authorities in Kwangtung were most agreeable, and he did not think any of the shareholders so far had had any reason to regret their purchase. If they had he would be very pleased to take up their shares personally. They hoped at next meeting they would have the pleasure of declaring their first dividend, and a substantial dividend, if any. (Applause.)

This was all the public business.

CHINA PROVIDENT LOAN AND MORTGAGE CO., LD.

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at the seventh ordinary general meeting to be held at the office of the general managers, on Saturday, (the 16th January at 11 a.m.):—

Annexed we have the pleasure to lay before shareholders a statement of accounts made up to 31st December, 1903.

The gross earnings for the past year amount to \$118,538.10 and after deducting all expenses, remuneration to general managers, consulting committee's and auditors' fees, there remains a balance of \$90,171.98, which it is recommended be appropriated as follows, viz:—

To place to reserve fund	\$ 9,000.00
To pay a dividend of 5 per cent	80,000.00
To carry forward to the credit of next year's account	1,171.98

Consulting Committee.—In accordance with the articles of association, Messrs. J. S. Van Buren, Chow Hing Kee, Chau Tung Shang, and J. H. Lewis retire, but offer themselves for re-election.

Auditors.—The accounts have been audited by Messrs. A. O'D. Gourdin and W. H. Potts, who are recommended for re-election.

SHEWAN TOMES & Co.

General Managers.

Hongkong, 5th January, 1904.

The accounts are as follows:— PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT, For the year 1903.

Charges	7,859.18	\$	c.
Consulting committee fees	4,000.00		
Auditors' fees	200.00		
Depreciation on office furniture, 1903	150.00		
Balance	90,171.98		
	\$102,381.16		
Balance	22.02	\$	c.
Interest received on mortgages, loans, &c.	118,538.10		
Less interest paid, commission, &c., &c.	16,429.36		
Unclaimed dividends written off	250.40		
	\$102,381.16		

BALANCE-SHEET.

LIABILITIES.		\$	c.
Capital 200,000 shares at \$10	\$2,000,000.00		
Less 100,000 shares unissued	1,000,000.00		
Reserve fund	46,000.00		
Debentures at 6 per cent. outstanding	10,200.00		
Sundry creditors	4,544.00		
Due to general managers	1,928.90		
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	50,040.18		
Balance of profit and loss	90,171.98		
	\$1,202,833.06		
ASSETS.		\$	c.
Loans on provident system	\$72,022.18		
On mortgages, shares, &c.	461,178.57		
Furniture, as per last statement	\$650.00		
Less depreciation	150.00		
Sundry debtors	8,108.61		
Cash	1,075.70		
	\$1,202,833.06		

SUPREME COURT

Monday, 4th January.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THEIR HONOURS SIR WILLIAM M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE), AND A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

LAND COURT APPEAL CASES.

A case was called in which the Attorney-General, as representing the Crown, appealed against a decision of the Land Court in allowing Ho Lap Pun's claim to 125 acres of foreshore near Lyeemoo. The Attorney-General, Hon. Sir Henry S. Berkeley, and Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., barrister-at-law, appeared for the Crown (instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor).

Before the opening of the case,

The Attorney-General said—I have great pleasure in wishing your Lordships a happy New Year.

The Chief Justice—The Court reciprocate it, and wish the Bar the same.

Mr. Sharp, K.C., said this appeal was from a judgment pronounced by the Land Court in December, 1901, allowing the respondent's claim to the absolute ownership of a large tract of seashore alleged by him to have been acquired under a grant from the Chinese Government 10 years before—in 1891. As their Lordships would recall, the Kowloon extension agreement under which we acquired the New Territory provided among other things that there should be no expropriation of the inhabitants. Pursuant to that provision the Land Court was established to enquire into the rights of the inhabitants at the date of the cession, and Section 15 of the Land Court Ordinance provided that all land in the New Territory shall be the property of the Crown. Therefore, as between the Crown and the respondent Ho Lap Pun, the Crown was clearly entitled to all rights in this land which Ho Lap Pun did not move that he was entitled to himself.

The Chief Justice—The Crown practically steps into the shoes of the Chinese Government. The only modifications are those created by the statute.

Mr. Sharp said that was so. The question before the Land Court was, what were Ho Lap Pun's rights at the date of the cession. The history of this case was this. On 27th November, 1891, the San On magistrate granted to the claimant certain rights for a vague tract of seashore at Matankok. The Crown said these rights amounted to a mere fishing licence. No area was specified in the grant or in any of the documents bearing the same date. A yearly rent of \$5 was to be paid for this fishing licence, and appeared to have been paid up to the date of the cession. In November, 1901, Ho Lap Pun, on the strength of this licence, claimed the absolute ownership of 600 odd more, over 125 acres, extending along more than two miles of foreshore in the neighbourhood of Lyeemoo, and this claim was allowed by the Land Court. Subsequently to the allowance of the claim by the Land Court the Government decided under Section 14 of the Land Court

Ordinance not to grant a title and referred the matter for compensation. The Crown had not been represented at the hearing by the Land Court, and now for the first time came into the case. The Attorney-General on examining the evidence upon which the Land Court had proceeded concluded that it did not in his opinion justify the judgment. The Crown at that time had no right to appeal, but in August of 1903 an amending Ordinance was passed giving that right, and the Attorney-General obtained leave to appeal and filed affidavits for the Crown, the respondent to file any evidence he thought fit in reply. In order to ascertain what the respondent's rights with regard to this area were, at the date of the cession of the New Territory, it was necessary to enquire into the Chinese law, which bore upon the case, and that, he thought, their Lordships would find very fully set out in the affidavits.

The Chief Justice—What I understand about this case so far is this, that owing to the representations made to the Land Court, the Land Court, instead of deciding that he had a fishing licence for which he paid \$5 a year (which was a very fair common-sense estimate of what rights he had), allowed his claim that the whole foreshore belongs to him as if it was a freehold. He makes out he got the absolute property of 125 acres at \$5 a year, that being the whole of the foreshore, shutting off all access to the country.

Mr. Sharp—Yes; for a distance of between two and three miles.

The Puisne Judge—He produced a document which they said was good; is not that the case?

Mr. Sharp said such a document was produced, but a very material point in the evidence was that the letter was a forgery. It appeared from the affidavits that all the land originally belonged to the Emperor. All the land in China might be considered as divided under two heads—(1) cultivated land or land built upon, and (2) Government waste. It seemed that it was only for cultivated land or land built upon that absolute ownership in the subject could exist. It must be entered on the tax register and it paid land-tax to the Government, and it was the absolute property in perpetuity of the holder. Government waste land consisted mainly of foreshores, sandbanks, seabeds, and land of that character. Such land could not be owned absolutely by a subject. Licences under which rent, not land-tax (therefore these were not registered in the land register), was paid were issued in respect of Government waste land. These licences were of two classes—licences to reclaim and licences to obtain some specific profit from the land. The second licences conferred no right to reclaim. Licences to reclaim obliged the licensee to erect a sea-wall within three years and to complete and register his reclamation within six years. He had got to use his licence, otherwise it was taken away from him. It was also important to observe that these licences to reclaim were until the year 1886 in the gift of the district magistrate. In 1886 that power was transferred to a board. Yet the claimant said this licence was granted by the district magistrate. As to the second class of licences under which this fell, the licences to obtain some specific profit merely out of the land, the commonest instance of these appeared to be fishing licences, which appeared to include the right to erect fishing stations. These licences were yearly licences revocable at the will of the district magistrate or any officer superior to him, and they were still in the gift of the district magistrate. Until 1886 the licences to reclaim were in the gift of the district magistrate. The licences to fish were in the gift of the district magistrate. Authority would appear to be unnecessary that licences to fish did not confer absolute ownership of the land. However the Crown had collected a very strong body of evidence on that point. The claimant's case at the Land Court was supported by a certain amount of oral evidence and by certain documents. The oral evidence amounted to nothing at all. The claimant said he knew nothing about the matter and that he received these documents from his father in 1901. The sole enquiry by the Land Court appeared to have been as to the boundaries of this land and not to the claimant's rights within these boundaries. The case clearly depended on the documents. First was the San On Magistrate's certificate in

1891 that this fishing licence had been granted. Next was the proclamation.

The Chief Justice—In his own evidence Ho Lap Pun said his application was "for a fishing ground. Private property I had nothing to do with. I only took up Government waste."

Mr. Sharp went on to say that the next document was a letter which they said was a forgery. It was a letter purporting to be privately written by the San On magistrate and to be a reclamation grant. It was entirely inconsistent with the proclamation. Another point against this document was that in 1891 the magistrate had clearly no jurisdiction to grant a reclamation licence. Even if it were not a forgery and the magistrate had the power to grant it, it would have lapsed by non-use. It was obligatory to build a sea-wall within three years and to have the reclamation completed and registered within six.

The Chief Justice remarked that in his application for a grant of this land the claimant said he had long resided in Kowloon and earned his livelihood by farming and fishing.

On the claimant being asked if that statement was true, he said it was false, but that it was necessary to go through a lot of forms in getting grants from the Chinese Government.

The Chief Justice—But not to tell a lot of lies.

Mr. Sharp, proceeding with his argument, said there was no question of moral hardship in the case. Claimant's moral case was as weak as his legal case. He had supported his claim by a forged letter or a letter which there was the very strongest possible reason for believing to be forged, and also by a mistranslation; and he submitted no sympathy could be extended to a claim of that character. He asked their Lordships to say this was a mere licence for fishing, to reverse the decision of the Land Court, and to say that this land belonged to the Crown and that the respondent had only shown himself entitled to a fishing licence from year to year revocable at the will of the Government.

The Chief Justice said it had been shown *prima facie* on the part of the Crown that the Land Court was misled by certain documents placed before them and a map which was assumed to be genuine into giving the claimant an absolute title to a large area of foreshore. He understood him to say he knew nothing about the matter personally, but got these papers from his father. Had the claimant anything to say in support of his claim?

The claimant said in reply that it was stated in his petition to the San On magistrate that the land was for the purposes of a dock.

The Chief Justice remarked that he was informed that it was a fishing-station and not a dock that was mentioned in the document. In his petition, too, the claimant stated that he had long resided in Kowloon, making farming and fishing his occupation. That was simply false.

The claimant answered that that was the style followed in making such applications to the Chinese Government.

The Chief Justice said a man who wanted a dock would not put into his petition that he passed his time in fishing and farming. He would be more likely to put in that he was a skilful engineer.

The claimant repeated that the word "dock" was in his petition.

The Attorney-General pointed out that in the letter from the Viceroy the words "pools for catching fish" were used. The Land Court rejected the word "dock."

The Chief Justice asked the claimant why he did not make the dock?

The claimant stated that there would have been difficulties with the Customs, and they had not sufficient money to start the company.

The Attorney-General mentioned that claimant's solicitors had retired from the case.

Being asked how this happened, claimant said he had no money to pay them.

The Chief Justice addressing the claimant said it was alleged that one of his letters was a forgery. If he knew it was genuine he ought to have got the San On magistrate, who was said to have written the letter, to sign an affidavit to that effect. The Crown did not dispute that he had at one time certain fishing rights for which he paid \$5 a year and he should get compensation for that. That would be the proper judgment to give, leaving the Land Court to assess the

value. This, his Lordship went on to say, was an appeal from a judgment of the Land Court delivered on 7th December on the claim of Ho Lap Pun. The Land Court found that on 27th November, 1891, a concession covering an area of 600 odd *mow* of land was granted by the San On Magistrate to the respondent. They pointed out that a rent of \$5 was to be paid annually till reclamation, and there was then to be an appropriate tax. They seemed to have chiefly gone on the consideration of the Exhibits C. E. and H, because they said on consideration of these exhibits it seemed clear that the concession included land above sea-level as well as land covered by water. They did not say in the judgment at all what the concession was. When they turned to the documents referred to they found the first, C1, was the certificate which purported to be a certificate of title granted in 1891 by the magistrate of San On. To see what that certificate meant it was advisable in the first place to consider the petition which was made and which was recited in the Certificate and to look at the words of it. It began by saying that the claimant presented a petition stating that he had long resided in Kowloon making farming and fishing his occupation. Mr. Ho Lap Pun now said that he never did reside at Kowloon and never made farming and fishing his occupation. It was clear therefore that at the very inception of this petition there was a false statement made to the magistrate. Then it went on to say that he found adjacent to where he was residing (that is, adjacent to Kowloon, where he was not residing) there was a zone of seashore which was Government waste and not private property and that it was a fit place to catch fish and put a station up. When this claim was before the Land Court the claimant translated this into "a fit place to make a dock." He could only say it was difficult to see why he said he was a man who made fishing his occupation if he wanted to put a dock up, and he understood, that on consideration, before the Land Court made their judgment, the translation was found to be inaccurate and it was amended and translated as it now was, "to put a station up," that was, a matched or even a pool for keeping fish. At any rate, it was not a dock in the modern sense of the word "dock." It was no use opening that question up again because it was decided by the Land Court that it was meant for a station. That was one of the considerations upon which they gave their judgment. Then came the certificate of title. In accordance with the terms of this certificate he was to take upon lease the zone of seashore at a yearly rental of \$5. It was clear to his mind that what the magistrate intended to grant by that was something suited to the application, which was that of a fisherman for the rights of catching fish on a piece of land which he represented as close by the place he lived. It was not adjacent to where he lived but he got his licence and the magistrate gave him a fishing licence at \$5 a year. Some years after that, in 1898, the cession of the New Territory was effected by treaty and no doubt many ingenious persons saw that there was a magnificent field open for them to make claims along the foreshore, which were of very little value under the Chinese Government but which were of very great value as soon as the land was taken over and the foreshore on the other side became British territory and a part of the foreshore abutting on Hongkong Harbour. The temptation must have been very great to some ingenious persons to make every sort of claim they possibly could in order to increase such rights as they had—small rights like fishing—into claims for absolute ownership of the land. In this case the claim put forward was for \$50,000, and only \$5 a year was being paid for it. Not until after the cession was contemplated was it thought worth while to pay up the back rent, \$5 for six years up to the time of the cession. Having done that the claim was put in under the treaty to have the whole foreshore held under an absolute title, and if they did not get a title of that description they claimed to be paid by the ratepayers of Hongkong, the sum of \$50,000 as compensation. It would be certainly a scheme which would present enormous attractions. They had seen so far that the magis-

trate had granted fishing rights to the man, who falsely represented himself to be a fisherman on a piece of coast which he falsely represented to be adjacent to where he lived. That claim would have been met by very small compensation especially as it appeared from the expert evidence put in that a fishing licence of that kind was revocable (the rent being paid annually) by the magistrate in any year, certainly on a year's notice—he did not know whether it could be done in less. It would not do to go to the Land Court and ask large compensation for such a licence. It wanted a very strong propping up to give it another meaning altogether. That propping up appeared by the document E1, which purported to be a notice from the San On magistrate stating that as soon as the hills had been opened up into fields and the sea beach reclaimed the amount of land that was acquired should be at once reported to the district magistrate; that measurements would be made according to law and additional taxes levied on the fields and lands according to the scale of taxation. In the first place it was alleged that this was a forgery. He did not think any evidence had been given before the Land Court or there that it was written by the magistrate or came from him. So far from that being the case it was stated distinctly and clearly that there was no evidence of it to be found in the yamen. That would make it extremely suspicious. The document itself was not consistent with the petition for making a dock which, he understood, Ho Lap Pun said was originally intended, because it spoke of "as soon as the hills have been opened up into fields." You did not make fields for the purpose of making a dock. Again, it was inconsistent with the other document C1. Why the magistrate, having granted this fishing licence, should on the very same day write to him and speak about the hills being opened up into fields was inconceivable. This document was absolutely inconsistent with the other document although it purported to be issued by the same man on the same day. In the absence of any proof that it was a genuine document issued by the magistrate he declined to believe in the truth of it. The claim was delayed for six weeks to allow the claimant or his solicitors to bring forward any evidence they wished. They had known all along that this document was impugned and they had had an extra six weeks besides the two or three months that elapsed before the case came on last time to find out whether the magistrate declared the document to be a genuine one from himself. No such evidence was forthcoming and therefore he could not place any reliance on that document. The third document they relied on was a map of the whole Colony, the whole value of which was a Chinese inscription written in ink along part of the coast line to the effect that that part of the coast pertained to the claimant. It was not suggested that there was any official seal to this map or anything to prevent anybody writing anything they pleased on a map of the whole Colony. The Land Court appeared to have taken that map as if it had been proved that the writing had existed at the time and that it had been approved by the magistrate. He could quite well understand that the Land Court, having such an enormous number of claims before it did not feel itself bound to require such absolute proof as would be required in the Supreme Court. At the same time he could not help thinking that the Land Court had given a little undue weight to this document as they had no evidence showing where it came from, and as anybody would be perfectly able to write anything on such a map. They had no proof that it was approved by the magistrate. He was bound to say he had some sympathy for the difficulties of the learned gentleman who had to preside in the Land Court. In the Supreme Court they had many advantages that the Land Court did not possess. They had a learned exposition of the law of China by gentlemen well qualified to express an opinion upon it. He did not think the Land Court had these advantages, and was inclined to think the Land Court trusted a little too much to the good faith of the claimant in this case. He was willing to take it from Mr. Ho Lap Pun that he really knew nothing about this and got the papers

from his father, but he was bound to say that in his opinion the "person who got up these papers and paid the back rent—which, it was perfectly clear, was done with a view to making a claim—must have acted in a way that he did not at all consider bona-fide. It seemed to him that the Land Court had been imposed upon by a document which was probably fraudulent and certainly had no operative force. In his opinion the judgment should have been that certain fishing rights had been granted for a certain area (the exact amount not being very clearly stated) to this claimant, that the value was estimated by himself and the Chinese Government at \$5 a year when they were granted and that it appeared to the Court he had made no use or extremely little use of these rights, which were revocable. It seemed to him monstrous that upon a claim of \$5 a year for fishing rights a man should come before the Land Court and ask that he be awarded \$50,000 for such a claim. He was not saying that if he had a freehold upon the land and it had gone up enormously in value he would not have been entitled to get the unearned increment, but in this case it did not appear that he had any such title at all. All he could ask compensation for was the taking away, the stopping of his fishing rights which were originally worth \$5 a year. There had been no evidence to show that it had ever been worth more than that to him. He thought the decision of the Land Court must be reversed and they should say that probably he had the fishing rights—nothing more.

The Puisse Judge concurred.

Costs were allowed.

The Court adjourned at 1.15 p.m.

After luncheon the Court heard another appeal against a judgment of the Land Court allowing the claim of Lam Tseung Fuk and Lam Tak Fuk to absolute ownership of sand banks along the sea beach in front of Kowloon City and Chinwan valued at \$35,000.

The Attorney-General having addressed the Court,

Their Lordships reversed the decision of the Land Court and allowed costs.

The Court rose.

Wednesday, 6th January.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. Wise
(PUISNE JUDGE).

CLAIM AGAINST MESSRS. SHEWAN, TOMES AND CO.

The Sun On Wing firm, 214, Queen's Road Central, dealers in European goods, sued Messrs. Shewan, Tomes & Co. for \$315 and costs, being damages suffered by the plaintiffs by reason of non-delivery of three cases of underwear sold by defendants to the plaintiffs as follows:—Loss on the goods bought at \$17.50 per dozen and sold by the plaintiffs at \$23 per dozen, 30 dozen equal to \$165; damages paid by the plaintiffs to the buyers on account of non-delivery, \$150; in all \$315, or \$331.20 including costs. Mr. G. K. Hall Brutton, solicitor, appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. C. Ewens, of Messrs. Ewens and Harston, for the defendant firm.

It appeared that plaintiffs took delivery of three cases; when they applied for delivery of the remaining three, which they had already sold, they were informed that they were not yet to hand. For failure to deliver the goods to the purchasers, plaintiffs paid \$150 in the way of compensation.

After hearing the evidence,

His Lordship gave judgment for the plaintiffs with costs.

Mr. Ewens asked for stay of execution for a week with a view to a possible appeal.

His Lordship granted this, and the Court adjourned.

The demand for American flour in Japan has shown a remarkable increase of late years. The value of the flour imported now amounts to some 3,000,000 Yen annually, and there are indications of a still further increase. About ten years ago the value of flour imported was not more than 700,000 yen per annum. The demand began to show gradual increase at the conclusion of the Japan-China war.

Thursday, 7th January.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM
M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

RECEIVING ORDER.

In the matter of Ma Chuk Ting, who petitioned for a receiving order sale of the estate of Ma Ying Wa deceased, Mr. E. J. Grist of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist, solicitors, appeared in support of the petition. The estates, he said, were insufficient to pay the debts of the deceased, and there were several actions commencing against the executor, as executor of the estate. It seemed to him that the only way of dealing with the case was to administer it in bankruptcy. The assets were \$21,000, of which \$12,000 was actual cash.

The Chief Justice asked how he was to know the estate was bankrupt. The application was wrongly drawn out. He seldom got these in proper form. There must be proper proof.

Mr. Grist said the form was strictly in accordance with Section 4 of No. 7. It was the only form under Bankruptcy law.

The Chief Justice remarked that it was a very unsatisfactory form.

A receiving order was made and Mr. Bruce Shepherd, Official Receiver, was appointed trustee.

ABSCONDERS.

In the case of the public examination of Chan Tai, Chan Sze, alias Chan Cheuk Hing, Chan Luk, alias Chan Hang Shek, Chan Chat, alias Chan In Shan, and Chan Shap Sam, alias Chan Chu, trading under the name of Him Yuen at 104, Bonham Strand, Mr. J. Hastings, solicitor, appeared and asked for an adjournment to allow the debtors to appear.

The Chief Justice said that on 22nd December the day for public examination was fixed for 7th January, and the debtors should have attended. It was contempt of Court, and he would order warrants to be issued for their arrest.

Mr. F. X. d'Almada e Castro, solicitor, who appeared on behalf of the petitioning creditors, said that he had no objections to an adjournment.

Mr. Hastings said that the debtors were in China, and were willing to come down for examination, but the Chinese officials, owing to some proceedings in Canton, would not allow them to leave.

The Chief Justice said he had no affidavits to that effect.

Mr. Hastings remarked that it would be to the interests of all to have the debtors present, and they are willing to attend if his Lordship would give them time.

The Chief Justice—The interest of the Court is that its orders are implicitly obeyed.

Mr. Bruce Shepherd—I am informed that the debtors escaped the runners at Canton, and suggested that they should be communicated with and told to come direct to Hongkong.

The Chief Justice—What are the assets?

Mr. Bruce Shepherd—No statement has been filed.

Mr. d'Almada—The creditors think there is enough to pay in full, but the debtors only want to give 30 per cent.

Mr. Hastings—The Official Receiver is willing to agree to an adjournment. It is the only way to get the property. I submit that it would be to the benefit of all parties to allow the debtors to come down to assist the Court. They have been stopped by proceedings in their own country.

The Chief Justice—I think it is great contempt of Court for them to send a representative to apply for an adjournment. I have no evidence that they are being proceeded against. If we do not get anything we shall have the satisfaction of keeping some scoundrels out of the Colony. The order made for the public examination of the debtors was fixed for to-day for them to be here to be examined. Instead of appearing they send a solicitor to negotiate with the Court and state that they would condescend to come down and obey the orders of the Court if they were not arrested. I refuse to enter into any negotiations and as provided by section 24 of the Bankruptcy Act, sub-section 1 (d) "if a debtor fails to attend any examination order of this Court he may be arrested by warrant, his books and papers seized"—this is exactly what they have done—I order a warrant to be issued. The Court afterwards adjourned.

THE "EMPRESS OF INDIA" COLLISION CASE.

On the 29th ult., in H. B. M.'s Supreme Court, Shanghai, Sir H. S. Wilkinson, Chief Justice, delivered judgment in the suit instituted by the Imperial Chinese Government as owners of the Chinese cruiser *Wong Tai* (or *Quangtai*) against the owners of the British Royal Mail steamer *Empress of India*, the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, for damages by a collision on the night of the 17th August last, off the coast of China between the Lamocks and Breaker Point. The reading of the finding took three-quarters of an hour and occupies four and a half of the long columns of the *N.-C. Daily News*. We only give therefore a summary of the earlier part of the judgment (in brackets), together with the concluding paragraphs in full, both taken from the excellent report of our Shanghai contemporary.

[His Lordship first ruled that the vessels came within the rule that any vessel overtaking another shall get out of the way of the other, and that the burden of proof was on the defendants to show an excuse for the collision. This burden the defendants had endeavoured to discharge by alleging that the mail steamer would have passed the cruiser at a distance of about a quarter of a mile had not the cruiser starboarded her helm in order to get out of the way of a junk, which was slightly on her (the cruiser's) port bow. This statement was put at issue by the plaintiffs and the evidence was very conflicting. The naval assessors were, however, clearly of opinion that the cruiser did not starboard, and after carefully considering their reasons and the evidence his Lordship concurred. This conclusion was supported by the plans put in and also by the record of time, from which his Lordship deduced that the collision could not have occurred in the way suggested by the defendants, and that the distance between the two vessels at the time the cruiser was alleged to have starboarded must have been considerably less than those on the *Empress of India* supposed. The evidence in regard to the junk was analysed closely and the assessors came to the conclusion that there was no junk at all, but that what was seen from the *Empress* was the loom of the fore part of the cruiser with the topmast housed. As to the widening out of the stern light of the cruiser on the mail steamer's starboard, which was another argument in favour of the theory that the cruiser had starboarded, the Court held that the first widening out to one point was explained by the two vessels being on parallel or almost parallel courses, while, as to the second widening, its cause was that the mail steamer was overhauling the cruiser on a course that was converging with that of the cruiser, the two vessels being much nearer than was realised on the mail steamer. The statement entered in the *Empress's* log-book by a passenger represented in the Court's opinion what would present itself to a spectator in the overtaking vessel when she arrived in the position he described with regard to the overtaken vessel, the two vessels being on convergent courses. It was, however, no proof that the *Wongtai* starboarded.]

The finding then went on:—

In the case of an overtaking steamer, it would appear to be quite sufficient to show that she did not keep out of the way, even if no specific fault could be shown on the part of the overtaking steamer. But in this case I find that the collision was brought about by the alteration of the course of the mail steamer at 11.35 so as to cross the course of the cruiser, and the failure thereafter to keep a proper look-out. Counsel for the mail steamer dwelt upon the numbers who were on the look-out, but the look-out men having reported the light of the cruiser the responsibility for observing the subsequent course of the cruiser fell upon the officers on the bridge. The third officer had left the bridge to go his rounds before the alteration in the course, and did not go out on the bridge again until the order starboard half a point was given, and the commander was also away from the bridge shortly after giving instructions for the change of course. It is not suggested that the absence of the commander or of the third officer from the bridge was in itself wrong. The commander cannot be always on the bridge, and the third officer was absent in the usual course of his duty. But the result

was that there was only the officer of the watch to keep a look-out on the movements of the cruiser, and it was all the more incumbent on him that he was hauling in his own vessel more closely to the course of the cruiser. I am satisfied after the most careful consideration that he did not keep a good look-out, and that the collision took place in consequence.

The alteration of the course is similar to that which formed the subject of the judgment in the case of the *Seaton* (9 P.D.I) and which was there held not to be justifiable. But if a good look-out had been kept the effect of the alteration would have been seen in time to prevent the collision. It is suggested by the assessors that the failure to keep a good look-out on the part of the officer of the watch may be partly accounted for by his attention being taken up with getting the ship steadied on her course and his eyes being fixed on the compass for some time at least. With that, however, the cruiser is not concerned.

I have assumed throughout that the parts of each vessel which first came into contact was the bluff of the port bow of the cruiser and the starboard side of the mail steamer forward. That is what was first seen by the commander of the mail steamer. The assessors are of opinion, and I quite agree with them, that the collision could not have taken place as stated in the preliminary act of the cruiser, that is, the mail steamer's starboard bow striking the cruiser's port-quarter. In the preliminary act of the mail steamer the parts of each vessel which first came in contact are the cruiser's bowsprit striking the starboard side of the mail steamer near the fore-castle head. The commander of the mail steamer did not see the bowsprit strike, but there was damage done which it was supposed must have been done in that way. If it were material it might be necessary to consider carefully the evidence with regard to the bowsprit. But it is not material. The statement of the cruiser in the preliminary act that the parts which first came in contact were the mail steamer's starboard bow and the cruiser's port quarter is under the circumstances of more importance. Counsel argued that if it is found not to be correct the doctrine of *secundum allegata et probata* would apply. But the cruiser has alleged and proved the infringement of Article 24 of the regulations, and putting aside all the rest of their allegations that, according to the judgment of the Privy Council in the *Hochung* and the *Lapwing* (7 App. Cas. 512), would entitle the owners of the cruiser to recover. But counsel further argued that the evidence given on behalf of the cruiser in favour of this allegation went to show that the other evidence given by the same witnesses was also untrustworthy. But I think it right to say that the witnesses from the cruiser appeared to me to give their evidence truthfully, and the assessors are of the same opinion. The witnesses did not all agree as to the parts which first came in contact, and judging from the respective positions in which they were it appeared to me that they might very well have been under the impression that the vessels struck where they said they did. Their evidence taken with the evidence of the commander of the mail steamer leaves a doubt whether the injury near the break of the fore-castle may not have been caused by one of the davits of the cruiser before the hulls of the vessels came in contact, and whether the angle at which they were to one another at that time may not have been caused by the bow wave of the mail steamer catching the stern of the cruiser, and swinging it round. But it is not necessary to pursue that enquiry further. Suffice it to say that having considered with the assessors the differences in the statements of the witnesses on this and other points which were relied on by counsel as discrepancies I have come to the conclusion that these are for the most part accounted for by the different positions in which they were placed, and that there is no reason to doubt their *bona fides*.

I have referred to the death of the commander of the cruiser. I was sorry to hear the suggestion that he went down deliberately with the ship. After hearing the explicit evidence of the gunnery-lieutenant who was alongside of the commander when the cruiser went down, the suggestion to my mind was clearly disproved,

and I regret that Mr. Davis, who had been officer of the watch on the mail steamer at the time of the collision, and afterwards in charge of one of the rescue boats, and with whom the suggestion appears to have originated, was on his examination asked to state his opinion after the evidence of the gunnery-lieutenant had been given.

I find then that the mail steamer was in fault, and that the cruiser is not precluded by anything in the pleadings from recovering against the mail steamer.

But it was argued that assuming the case to be as stated by the cruiser, the cruiser ought to have done something to avoid the collision, that she ought to have ported. But counsel have already cited the judgment in the Court of Appeal in the case of the *Saragossa* (68 L. T. 400) showing how strictly the overtaken ship is held not to deviate to one side or the other so as to embarrass the overtaking ship, which is to have the choice of passing on either side. The cruiser was right in holding on until it became clear that the collision would not be avoided by the action of the mail steamer alone, and I am of opinion that the cruiser could not then by porting have avoided the collision.

I find then that the mail steamer, the *Empress of India*, is alone to blame, and there will be the usual decree against the owners for damages and costs, and the usual reference, to the Registrar and merchants.

SPORTING NOTES.

(Daily Press, 9th January.)

In spite of war rumours and the general spirit of unrest produced thereby, sport will be brisk in Hongkong this afternoon. A very important League match takes place on the Cricket Ground; the first of the Football Shield ties will be played in the Happy Valley, followed by a friendly game the same afternoon; and other events of interest make up the list. It was a very good idea to have the return game between the Civil Service C.C. and the Army Ordnance Corps played on the premier cricket ground of the Colony, and no doubt a big attendance will be secured. The Civil Service has not been defeated this season. The A.O.C. was beaten once, in the first League engagement with the Civil Service men. That game was played on the 31st October, when the Civil Service, winning the toss, went in and made 15 (Deveney 28, Brett 11, Extras 22). The A.O.C. could only put up 39, the best individual score being 7. Witchell took 6 wickets for 22 and Lander 3 for 14 in the A.O.C. innings. In spite of this the A.O.C., on the strength of their magnificent performances of late, will start rather favourites to-day. Both teams are powerful in bowling, especially the Civil Service, while the A.O.C. batting is marked by unusual vigour. The game is thought likely to decide the League championship for the season, for no other team is in the running. As I prophesied earlier in the season, the Craigengower C.C. has improved greatly and should finish third, a position which they now occupy temporarily. Could the H.K.C.C. Reserves play a regular team, with a couple of good bowlers, I should pin my faith to them for fourth place, in spite of the fact that they have at present one victory only to set against four defeats.

The following is the revised League table, from which it will be seen that there is a large interval after the two leaders:—

Clubs	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
A.O.C.	9	8	1	0	24
Civil Service	6	5	0	1	16
Craigengower	8	3	3	2	11
R.E.	6	3	3	0	9
H.M.S. Tamar	5	2	3	0	6
R.A.M.C.	6	1	4	1	4
H.K.C.C. "A"	5	1	4	0	3
Parsees	5	0	5	0	0

The Football Shield competition opens to-day with a match between H.M.S. *Glory*, the holders, and H.M.S. *Leviathan*. The *Glory* should secure a handsome victory if the *Leviathan's* form against the H.K.F.C. on Wednesday was anything like true. The match, it should be noted, begins at 2.15 p.m. on the Club ground, while the friendly game between the H.K.F.C. and H.M.S. *Albion* follows at 4

o'clock. The remaining ties in the first round of the Shield will have to be played soon, as the 30th inst. is the last day. It is to be feared that the Sherwood Foresters will be much weakened by the departure of 250 for the North yesterday. Their first-round opponents, the Rovers F.C., make their *début* in public to-day, meeting the R.E. on the Military ground.

The H.K.F.C. Rugby team beat H.M.S. Ocean rather easily yesterday by 2 goals and a try to love.

Two hockey matches were played by the H.K.H.C. this week. On Wednesday the 114th Mahrattas, the old 14th Bombay Light Infantry, were met. The Club played a much better game than hitherto this season and drew with last year's champions, the score being 1 goal all. Wodehouse in particular distinguished himself, and at back Murphy was very good. Yesterday, the 93rd Burmas, probably the best hockey team in the Far East, were encountered, when the Burmas gained an easy victory by 6 goals to 1. For the hockey trophy entries close on the 31st January. Plenty of teams seem likely to enter, and competition should be very keen.

The sixth club race, in connection with this season's championship of the Royal Hongkong Yacht Club, takes place to-day and to-morrow the championship-class sail to-day, and the one-designers and second class to-morrow.

Bowling, after the match between the Hongkong and German Clubs, always languishes. Why, I wonder, does the Navy not raise a team occasionally? The only event of interest immediately forthcoming is a roll for a cup presented by Mr. T. C. Gray.

OMPAX.

TAIKOO SPORTS.

The 1904 Taikoo Sports, held at Quarry Bay on New Year's Day, were a success, being conducted with credit. The officers for the occasion were as follows:—

President—Mr. D. R. Law; Vice President—Mr. W. Murray Scott; Chairman—Mr. D. Templeton; Committee—Messrs. A. McKirdy, R. Galloway, R. Aitken, W. C. Macpherson, F. E. Shuster, R. H. Stephenson, J. Lochead, T. Grimshaw, J. D. Melvin, W. J. Hill, and T. Hoskins; Referee—Mr. A. Rodger; Judges—Messrs. W. Farmer, J. Rodger, J. I. Andrew and R. Aitken; Timekeepers—Messrs. J. Blake and C. Leberil; Handicappers—Messrs. T. Meek, T. Grimshaw, J. Gloyn, F. W. White, and A. McKirdy; Stewards—Messrs. J. N. Harvie, D. Hoskins, T. Grimshaw, T. Hoskins, W. Smith and A. Elly; Lap Scorers—Messrs. F. W. White and A. R. Blake; Starter—Mr. F. E. Shuster; Hon. Treasurer—Mr. J. D. Melvin; Hon. Secretary, Mr. R. H. Stephenson.

The picturesque little Taikoo football-field, encircled by a bicycle-track, looked at its very best: on one side was a visitors' stand, brilliantly decorated with bunting; a ladies' refreshment room with garden was situated at the inner end of the ground; a gentlemen's refreshment room at the near end; judges' stand, and stand for distribution of prizes on the opposite side to the visitors' stand; committee's tent in the field, to the left of the 100 yards race track, extending from goal-post to goal-post; and the bright uniformed band of the 110th Mahratta Light Infantry on the other side. Weather was glorious; the attendance better than for many years. Results:—

100 YARDS FLAT RACE, handicap (confined). 1st prize presented by Mr. W. Murray Scott. 2nd prize presented by Mr. W. Ramsay.

Half-a-dozen faced the starter—E. Humphreys, T. Mullan, C. C. Hickling, R. H. Stephenson, W. Bassford, W. Livesey, and W. Wotherspoon. The result was:—

R. H. Stephenson, 5 yards ... 1
W. Livesey, 8 yards ... 2

Time—11 1/5 secs.

TWO MILES BICYCLE RACE. Open to all non-first prize winners. 1st prize presented by Messrs. McKirdy & Co. 2nd prize presented by Mr. J. N. Harvie.

Seven faced the starter: R. C. Witchell (150 yards start), J. E. Sinclair (150 yds), W. Wotherspoon (150), H. S. Holmes (175), H. Palmer (175), J. Forbes (200), and J. F. Remedios (200). J. Forbes with his good start was a dark horse, leading from beginning to end. In the first round, when passing the ladies' tea-garden, Sinclair's front tyre, which, apparently, had been over-pumped, went off with a bang, making a noise like a pistol shot. A cloud of dust rose; the rider and machine disappeared from view over the embankment. Sinclair, we are glad to say, is now fairly well, though he had a nasty injury necessitating two stitches at the back of his ear, and he was otherwise hurt. The finish was:—

J. Forbes ... 1
H. Palmer ... 2

Time—4 min. 59 sec.

QUARTER-MILE FLAT RACE, HANDICAP.

Open to China Sugar Refinery, Docks and V.R.C. 1st prize presented by Mr. Mok Koon Yuk; 2nd prize presented by Mr. T. Hoskins.

There were seven competitors: J. D. Kinnaid, T. C. Pearce, J. P. Jordan, S. M. Gidley, H. W. Sayers, A. Marti, and T. Mullan. The race ended:—

A. Marti ... 1
J. P. Jordan ... 2
T. C. Pearce ... 3

Time 60 1/2 secs.

TWO MILES BICYCLE RACE. Open to all comers. 1st prize presented by Mr. D. R. Law; 2nd prize presented by Mr. Yuen Hop.

A most exciting race; five, including three in the first class, faced the starter: A. McKirdy (scratch), L. J. Twomey (scratch), H. C. Austen (scratch), R. C. Witchell (50 yds), and H. S. Holmes. Cries of "Go it, Austen," bespoke the popularity of that gentleman, but that gentleman was "not in it," so to speak. McKirdy, by the way, had, judging from appearance, the best machine, but at the same time he fairly demonstrated that he was the best rider. Twomey proved a very good second. The finish:—

A. McKirdy ... 1
L. J. Twomey ... 2
H. C. Austen ... 3

Time, 4.55 1/2 secs.

220 YARDS FLAT RACE. Handicap (confined). 1st prize presented by Drs. Stedman, Rennie and Harston; 2nd prize presented by Mr. Ah Wing.

Four entered for this event:—E. Humphreys (8 yds.), R. H. Stephenson (12 yds.), W. Livesey (15 yds.), and T. Mullan (15 yds.). Result:—

R. H. Stephenson ... 1
T. Mullan ... 2

Time, 27 2/5 secs.

HIGH JUMP. Open to China Sugar Refinery, Docks and V.R.C. Prize presented by Mr. D. Templeton.

J. Witchell and T. C. Gray were the only competitors. J. Witchell was the winner by some inches:—

J. Witchell ... 1
Jump 4 ft. 7 in.

MILE BICYCLE RACE (confined). 1st prize presented by the Royal Exchange Assurance Corporation. 2nd prize presented by the Cosmopolitan Dock Staff.

Very good race, but McKirdy was reckoned the winner before pistol-fire; his handicap was too small. Altogether six started: A. McKirdy (scratch), H. Palmer (75 yds.), R. A. Ferguson (100 yds.), T. Hoskins (125 yds.), T. Grimshaw (150 yds.), and W. C. Macpherson (175 yds.). Finish:—

A. McKirdy ... 1
H. Palmer ... 2
T. Hoskins ... 3

Time, 3 min. 20 1/2 secs.

LONG JUMP (confined). Prize presented by Mr. H. T. Butterworth.

There were only two competitors: R. H. Stephenson and E. Humphreys. Humphreys was by far the best jumper:—

E. Humphreys ... 1
Jump:—16 ft.

5 MILES BICYCLE RACE (handicap). Open to all comers. 1st prize presented by Kowloon Dock Staff. 2nd prize presented by the London and Lancashire Fire Assurance Co. 3rd prize presented by the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Best race of the day. Six started: A. McKirdy (scratch), H. C. Austen (scratch), J. L. Twomey (scratch), H. Palmer (175 yds.), W. Wotherspoon (175 yds.), and J. Forbes (200 yds.). Austen led for many laps before being overtaken by McKirdy and Twomey. After that, by a strong effort and a high course, he again overhauled the other two and took the lead. His glory was but short-lived, however, and he again fell to third place. Still determined to succeed, he made another bold effort to regain his lead, but this time he accidentally fouled Twomey and was thrown, luckily without hurt. Some time before the finish the limit men were more than lapped. It was a tight finish between McKirdy and Twomey:—

A. McKirdy ... 1
L. J. Twomey ... 2

Time, 12 min. 38 secs.

HALF MILE FLAT RACE. Handicap. Open to China Sugar Refinery, Docks and V.R.C. 1st prize presented by the V.R.C. 2nd prize presented by Mr. Jack Ah Tai.

There were ten starters, a larger number than in any other event: J. Witchell (10 yds.), S. M. Gidley (15 yds.), T. E. Pearce (15 yds.), H. W. Sayers (15 yds.), J. P. Jordan (15 yds.), S. Moore (15 yds.), E. Humphreys (18 yds.), A. Marti (20 yds.), J. J. Watson (25 yds.), and W. Livesey (45 yds.). Result:—

J. J. Watson (25 yards) ... 1
J. Witchell (10 yards) ... 2
J. P. Jordan (15 yards) ... 3

Time, 2 min. 19 sec.

TWO MILE BICYCLE RACE (confined). Open to gentlemen from 30 years of age and upwards. 1st prize presented by the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha. 2nd prize presented by Mr. Mok Koon Yuk.

Five entered: A. McKirdy (scratch), T. Hoskins (200 yds.), R. A. Ferguson (200), T. Grimshaw (350), W. C. Macpherson (350). The limit men were overhauled. McKirdy again easily won. Result:—

A. McKirdy ... 1
T. Hoskins ... 2
R. A. Ferguson ... 3

Time, 5 min. 10 1/2 secs.

HURDLE RACE (100 yards). 1st prize presented by Mr. D. Macdonald. 2nd prize presented by Mr. W. H. Howard.

Six started: A. A. Park (scratch), J. P. Jordan (3 yds.), H. W. Sayers (4 yds.), F. K. Tata (6 yds.), W. Bassford (2 yds.), and W. Andrews (10 yds.). Andrews led from first to last:—

W. Andrews ... 1
J. P. Jordan ... 2
H. W. Sayers ... 3

VETERANS' RACE. 1 mile bicycle. Handicap on merit. Open to all comers over 40 years of age. Prize presented by Mr. J. Blake.

There were four starters: W. G. Simpson (scratch), R. A. Ferguson (scratch), T. Hoskins (scratch), T. Grimshaw (150 yds.). Simpson gave up shortly after the start. Grimshaw, the limit man, was overhauled by the other two:—

T. Hoskins, scr ... 1
R. A. Ferguson, scr ... 2

Time, 2 min. 45 1/2 secs.

LADIES' NOMINATION RACE. 1st prize presented by the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha. 2nd prize presented by Mr. A. E. Fullerton.

Perhaps no event marred the pleasure of the day more than this one, McKirdy, the winner of three previous races, making an unsportsmanlike protest against Adams, the second, for not having his rosette pinned on properly. The judges showed great wisdom in dealing with the matter: they withdrew the second prize for which McKirdy, who came in third, was disputing. Those who started were H. W. Sayers, A. McKirdy, W. Livesey, J. W. Adams, and R. E. Stephenson. The race was halfway round, got a rosette from the nominator and complete the lap. Result:—

R. H. Stephenson ... 1

ONE MILE FLAT RACE, scratch. Open to all comers. 1st prize presented by the China Sugar Refinery Staff. 2nd prize presented by Messrs G. Fenwick and Co. 3rd prize presented by Mr. Ah Poi.

J. Witchell, S. M. Moore, J. P. Jordan, A. Darby, J. D. Kinnaid, and J. J. Watson started. The bell being rung a couple of

laps too soon, Watson put on a spurt and on winning, as he thought, discovered the race was not finished. On a righteous protest being lodged the judges declared "No race."

VISITORS' RACE. One lap, confined to visitors only, non-racing costume. Prize presented by the Taikeo Club.

Several visitors started. Herton, closely followed by a soldier, came first. The soldier tumbled as he passed the line:—

E. R. Herton 1.

Time 32½ secs

CONSOLATION RACE. Prize presented by Mr. Ah Kam.

This, the closing event, was a hundred yards race. Result:—

T. E. Pearce 1

F. K. Tata 2

S. M. Gidley 3

Champion Cup (Confined.) Prize presented by Mr. J. H. Scott. Decided on points as follows:—3 points for every 1st place, 2 for every 2nd, 1 for every 3rd.

This was won by McKirdy.

During the afternoon, by the way, two clowns greatly delighted the children. There was a subscription race for the band, who had to run while playing their instruments. Whether the big-drum or the double-bass won, it is hard to say. Visitors were well looked after. Prizes were presented, at the conclusion of races, by Mrs. A. R. Fullerton.

CRICKET.

H.K.C.C. v. THE NAVY.

A match was played on the Cricket Ground on New Year's Day and the following day between the H.K.C.C. and a team drawn from the Navy. The Club team included six of the Interport team which had represented Hongkong v. Shanghai, and the other five were all well-tried players. The Naval side was drawn from eight ships, but was certainly not so strong as some of the Naval teams which we have seen out here. R. Hancock, who captained the Club team, elected to bat first, and sent in Sercombe Smith and Maitland. Early in the day the wicket was bumpy, and the batsmen got hit about a lot by the bowlers. After one wicket had gone down for 7 runs the Club did well, and thanks chiefly to Turner (who hit 15 fours) and Arthur the score was 253 when the seventh wicket fell. Chichester carried his bat for 28, and the innings amounted to 295 in all. The Navy started off in moderate style, losing their first two wickets for 27. Watson and Williams more than doubled the score, and it was 62 when the *Leviathan's* commander was caught out. After this a rot set in, and at the end of the first day's play the score was only 82 for seven wickets. On Saturday morning the wicket kicked a lot, and the batsmen were repeatedly hit. Vivian and Harris nevertheless did well, but the first innings closed for 122, when the tiffin interval was taken. On resuming the Navy followed on, but the performance was no better than before. Cornabe and Williams did well, but the rest of the side could make little of W. Dixon's bowling, and the total of the second venture was only one more than that of the first. The Club accordingly won by an innings and 50 runs. R. Hancock and W. Dixon both came off with excellent bowling figures for the winners. H. Hancock did well behind the stumps. Scores and analysis:—

H.K.C.C.	
T. Sercombe Smith, run out	34
F. Maitland, c Irwin, b Barron	1
W. C. D. Turner, c and b Gibson	92
B. Hancock (capt.), c sub., b Broadbent	0
H. Hancock, c Barron, b Broadbent	4
A. G. Ward, b Gibson	22
J. T. Dixon, b Barron	36
H. Arthur, c Gibson, b Meaden	28
Major Chichester, not out	57
Wm. Dixon, c Broadbent, b Barron	9
Lieut. Birmingham, c Irwin, b Barron	5
Extras	7
Total	295
THE NAVY.	
First Innings.	Second Innings.
A. Irwin, c R. Hancock	7
b Smith	c sub., b J. Dixon
Horsey, b Wm. Dixon	11
c R. Hancock, b W. Dixon	15
Com. Watson, c H., b	c W. Dixon, b R.
R. Hancock	32
Hancock	

Williams, run out	0	b Smith	84
Staff-Surg. Meaden,			
l.b.w., b J. T. Dixon	4	b W. Dixon	5
Broadbent (capt.), c J.			
Dixon, b R. Hancock	0	not out	0
Sub.-Lt. Barron, c R.		c H. Hancock, b W.	
Hancock, b J. T. Dixon	4	Dixon	1
Lt. Vivian, b R. Hancock	12	b Smith	10
Capt. Harris, not out	18	c J., b W. Dixon	7
Sub.-Lieut. Cornabe, c			
sub., b R. Hancock	8	c and b R. Hancock	34
Sub.-Lieut. Gibson, b R.			
Hancock	5	b W. Dixon	1
Extras	15	Extras	10
Total	123	Total	123

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

H.K.C.C.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barron	16.3	2	56	4
Vivian	4	—	21	—
Horsey	3	—	17	—
Harris	16	2	64	—
Broadbent	9	1	40	2
Williams	5	—	41	—
Gibson	7	—	31	2
Meaden	2	—	15	1

THE NAVY.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Smith	9	—	32	1
W. Dixon	9	3	19	1
J. Dixon	16	4	32	2
R. Hancock	15	8	24	5

FOOTBALL.

H.K.F.C. v. H.M.S. "ALBION."

These teams met at Happy Valley on the 2nd inst. under Rugby rules, and a good game resulted in a win for the Club by 1 goal 3 tries (14 points) to 1 goal (4 points). The match was witnessed by a large crowd of spectators. Teams were as follows:—Hongkong: Arthur, back; Richardson, Pearce, Barnes, and Robertson, three-quarters; Fletcher and Jordan, halves; Chard, Sandford, Boyd, Hallifax, MacDonald, Newman, Rowley, and Scrover, forwards. H.M.S. *Albion*: H. L. Boyle, back; Royle, Hargreaves, Danby, and Carne, three-quarters; Blackwood and McLeod, halves; Hughes, Reeves, Boxer, Halahan, Layard, Warren, Carter and Jones, forwards.

H.M.S. "LEVIATHAN" v. H.K.F.C.

Played on Happy Valley on the 6th inst. the men in blue shirts kicking off. During practically the whole of the first half the ball was kept at the Club end of the field, on three occasions K w having to handle it. The Naval team were strong kickers, and altogether a more powerful lot than the Club men; the game was not exciting. Danby (appearing at half) and Bonnar played a good game, Bonnar on several occasions robbing his man. A hard shot by the Navy just grazed the cross-bar. After an unanswered cry for "hands" by the Club, the Navy made another bad shot. Bonnar, while encountering the right-wing, got an elbow in the wind; after he had secured the ball, he lay down and play was suspended to allow him to recover. Whitmore then dodged up the right wing, but was too heavily met. No direct attack was made on the Navy goal. At half-time the score was nil.

In the second half Hongkong again had most of the defence; Kew in goal, however, was a wall of defence. Cooper, Aucott, and Williams played a much better game in this half, and Bonnar continued well to the fore. Hodgson, the Navy's outside right, did exceptionally good work throughout. Kew altogether made five good saves. Danby brought the ball up the left wing, but Whitmore lost the advantage by making a bad kick when within a few yards of goal. Williams then scored a goal for the Club. Murphy, the Navy's half, got the worst of a collision, and play was suspended for a short time. At whistle the game was:—H.K.F.C. 1—0.

Mr. Frank Brown was referee.

The Club played one man short.

H.M.S. "GLOEY" v. H.M.S. "LEVIATHAN."

Hongkong, perhaps, has never seen a brighter game of football than the first contest towards the Challenge Shield; it took place on the Club Ground, Happy Valley, on the afternoon of the 9th inst. Bright sunshine and a cloudless sky enlivened the surroundings; and the verdure surrounding the valley was picturesque beyond measure. On the football field, the *Glory* team wore red shirts, while men from the *Leviathan* wore blue; the combination looked very pretty. The Club

pavilion was based on the right side by a patch of red-coated soldiers, and on the left by blue-jackets. Opposite, on the other side of the field, was a large group of man-of-war's men, who had their hearts in, and were excited over the game. They cheered their respective ship-mates for every good kick; they shouted instructions at them. When their own particular friends got the worst of it, they stamped their feet with vexation, also making other visible, if not audible, signs of annoyance. A mixture of soldiers and sailors, again, pretty well surrounded the field. Some ladies, and a large body of civilians were present; quite a few Chinese youngsters, also, enjoyed the fun. The ground was rather too pitched and hard; this was all there was to complain of.

Glory won the toss and kicked off. From the start the *Leviathan* did most of the pressing; every man, somehow, being in his place. Play on the part of the *Leviathan* was very fast; that of the *Glory* was more or less slow. The ball quickly found its way to the vicinity of the *Glory* goal, but Hodson held it too long, with the result that it was kicked behind. A corner then fell to the *Leviathan*; the *Glory* altogether was very hard pressed. Recovering themselves, the men in red assumed the aggressive, the ball being passed by some very cute play. Eventually, it was kicked from the centre, headed, headed again, and shot by Moore into the *Leviathan's* goal amid much applause. The *Leviathan* then kept play on the enemy's side of the field, two corners in succession falling to them. Booth of the *Glory* collided with Hall of the *Leviathan*, getting some injury; he soon recovered, and play was continued. The game was of the most exciting character, the sturdy sailors butting against one another and tumbling about in all directions. More than one complete somersault was turned. The *Glory* was represented by the heavier set of men. A feature of the game was powerful kicking, the ball being much in air. Morgan, the *Glory's* goal, did some splendid work on one occasion, when heavily pressed, he had to bounce the ball with his hand several times in succession to steer it clear of his opponents. At last he was able to kick it, and he did so amid great cheering. Bell, the *Leviathan's* centre, drove the ball between the *Glory's* posts, with a beautiful shot. At half-time the game stood:—*Glory* 1; *Leviathan* 1.

After play had been resumed, Murphy, the right-half of the *Leviathan*, made a good shot from a very awkward position. Milford, of the *Glory*, did some very good work, "Sinbad" being a much used cry. Bell then got knocked down, play being suspended for a short while. The *Glory* for a time were dangerously near their opponents' goal, two unsuccessful shots being made. The men in blue soon put them on the defensive again, though. Hutchings, the *Leviathan's* inside left, made a splendid dribble up the left wing, doing a complete circle around a "red-shirt"; this caused a deal of laughter. Once again the *Glory* came up but, though they continued to press hard for some time, nothing came of it. Then Bell made another goal for the *Leviathan*; Morgan, the keeper, went forward to meet the ball but was dodged. Oldham, the *Amphitrite's* outside right, after dribbling the ball up the wing placed it; Morgan, however, was equal to the occasion. Hodson shot from the centre and made the third goal for the *Leviathan*. The *Glory* brought the ball to the *Leviathan's* goal, and some very thick play took place in that vicinity. Milford scored a goal, the second for the *Glory*, off a pass from Lane at the right wing. Hodson then put on a fourth goal for the *Leviathan*; Morgan fisted the ball feebly, and it went in off his hand. The *Glory's* goal in stopping the ball got a splinter in his hand; when it was taken out the whistle blew. The result was:—

H.M.S. *Leviathan* 4;—H.M.S. *Glory* 2.

The teams were:—

Glory:—Morgan, goal; Urquhart and Booth, backs; Matthews, Bodell, and Wade, halves; Lane, Watson, Milford, Moore, and Hansford, forwards.

Leviathan: Corbett, goal; Lapsage and Jeffreys, backs; Murphy, Kiuch and Shooter, halves; Oldham, Hodson, Bell, Hutchings and Hall, forwards.

Referee, Mr. Trigg, H.M.S. *Eclipse*.

ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

The following cards were returned at the R.H.K.G.C.'s monthly meeting for January, 1904:—

CAPTAIN'S CUP.

Mr. S. T. Reid	...	91	—	12	=	79
Mr. A. C. Butt	...	93	—	14	=	79
Mr. J. Johnstone	...	85	—	5	=	80
Dr. Dartnell	...	98	—	18	=	80
Mr. J. E. Lee	...	91	—	8	=	83
Mr. C. H. Grace	...	97	—	14	=	83
Mr. A. Brooke Smith	...	95	—	11	=	84
Mr. D. Story	...	102	—	18	=	84
Lieut. Wilson, P.N.	...	103	—	18	=	85
Dr. Drew	...	96	—	10	=	86
Mr. H. W. Slade	...	98	—	12	=	86

38 entries.

POOL.

Mr. A. C. Butt	...	91	—	14	=	77
Mr. S. T. Reid	...	91	—	12	=	79
Lieut. Wilson, R.N.	...	98	—	18	=	80
Capt. Harris	...	93	—	12	=	81
Mr. A. W. Campbell	...	92	—	7	=	85

29 entries.

BOXING.

A boxing entertainment took place in the Theatre on the 6th inst. under the management of Mr. Sam Newman. The house was hardly up to expectations at the start but improved after the interval. It was about 20 minutes past 9 o'clock when the first event commenced, Nicholls, of H.M.S. *Glory*, meeting Berger, of H.M.S. *Tamar*. Nicholls, the taller and lighter-built man, soon asserted his superiority, Berger, though of fine physique for his size, appearing out of condition. The *Tamar* man lasted, however, till the fifth round, when he went down and was counted out. Nicholls unfortunately did not hear the referee, and so ran in and struck his opponent again, causing Mr. Newman to give Berger the decision on a foul. This was distinctly hard luck for Nicholls. It was then announced that Newman and Ryan would not meet, owing to the former's duties as referee putting him at a disadvantage—a great disappointment to the spectators. To fill up, Smith, of H.M.S. *Eclipse*, and Turner, of H.M.S. *Albion*, came on for 6 rounds, but Turner, a small boxer who conceded about two stone, was never in it. Smith played with his man and put him out in the third round. The first interval was then taken, the time being 10.15.

On resumption, Butler, of the Sherwood Foresters, met Leighton, of H.M.S. *Albion*, in a 15-round contest. The soldier, who had the advantage in height, seemed to tire in round 4, but recovered. Again in round 9 Leighton nearly had him out. A lucky up-and-down on the jaw next round made the sailor queer, but he pulled through and won a deserved victory on points in round 15.

A second interval was taken before the event of the evening came off. In this Charles St. Clair, who is described as the middle-weight champion of Brooklyn, and who has done well in Shanghai, undertook to stop James Christie, a Hongkong amateur, in eight rounds. St. Clair was 24 lbs. heavier than his opponent, weighing 13st. to Christie's 11st. 4 lbs. The local man was a warm favourite with the spectators, and when he showed up well at the start obviously delighted them. Early in the second round St. Clair appeared to slip as Christie reached his chest, and he went down, but plainly received no damage. A lot of clinching took place all through, Mr. Newman having a very busy time in enforcing "breaks." Christie did well in round 3, but St. Clair began after this to follow him up more closely, and when five rounds had gone the local man was less lively. His condition, however, seemed perfect, and in round 7 he looked none the worse for what punishment he got. In round 8 St. Clair, after trying in vain to induce Christie to lead, quickened the pace and never gave the other a rest. But Christie was equal to the occasion, and was as fast on his feet as ever, finally securing the verdict, St. Clair not having put him out. The bout was well worth seeing. Some foolish cries of "foul" from time to time might well have been lacking, for there was no really foul hit in the whole event.

This was the last bout. Ryan challenged St. Clair to a match before the audience dispersed.

SATURDAY'S CONTESTS.

A boxing tournament was held at the City Hall on the 9th instant, the contestants of the various events being men of the Navy. Mr. W. J. Manser acted as master of ceremonies; Mr. C. C. St. Clair, referee; Mr. Barnes, time-keeper; Messrs. V. Kuster and Moore, judges and Mr. H. J. E. Gow, general manager. H.M.S. *Vengeance's* band, under Bandmaster Carlo Guidotti, played in the intervals. The exhibition of skill in the "noble art" commenced at 8 o'clock. Results were as follows:—

MIDDLE-WEIGHTS.—Bergen, H.M.S. *Tamar*, v. Sto. Byng, H.M.S. *Vengeance*. A six-round contest of two-minute rounds. Catch weights for a purse.

Bergen had by far the best of the first round, Byng getting several hard hits about the face. Bergen was staggered by a powerful smack on the jaw in the second round. In the fourth round Bergen returned Byng's punishment of the second round. On Bergen endeavouring to follow up the advantage, however, Byng was too agile. Bergen, again, got the best of the fifth round, swinging on to Byng from the right and left in succession. The sixth and last round was to the credit of Byng.

A draw.

HEAVY-WEIGHTS.—Jones, R.M.A., H.M.S. *Albion* (heavy-weight champion of the China Station), v. Morgan, A.B., H.M.S. *Vengeance* (runner-up of heavy-weight championship Med.) A ten-round contest, of two-minute rounds, for a purse.

Morgan, though not quite at home in the outset, got the best of the first round. In the second round, Morgan started off with the pressing, getting a hard smack in from the right on Jones's jaw. Jones retaliated with a telling body-hit from the shoulder. The third round was exceedingly fast. Morgan receiving first a left-hander and then one on the jaw from Jones. Morgan got home a hard hit on Jones's jaw, knocking his opponent against the ropes. Three clinches took place in the next round. Shortly before he gong announced time, Jones was knocked down. In the sixth round Morgan tumbled Jones with a right followed by a left on the jaw. Jones availed himself of nine seconds' spell. Jones got the best of a hard-fought round, the seventh round, and again got the best of the ninth round. Morgan felled Jones in the tenth and last round. Morgan was the prettier fighter of the two, standing more erect than Jones. The judges decided in favour of Morgan.

A couple of jovial, lawless-looking U.S. Navy men next entertained the company with a little "fool-sparring."

BANTAM CHAMPIONSHIP OF CHINA STATION.

—Layton, H.M.S. *Albion* (champion of China Station) v. Lacey, H.M.S. *Vengeance* (champion of Mediterranean Station); 20 two-minute rounds for the championship, they already having fought a 12-round draw at Yokohama.

Lacey, almost from first to last, maintained an aggressive position, keeping his opponent next to the ropes. He was by far the prettier boxer, standing upright, and stamping his feet firmly. His arms were kept in model attitude for defence and attack, and, by the way, he did not move them about much except when to hit out or ward off a blow. There was quite a deal of trickery in the way he stamped his feet; he was particularly sprightly. Layton, on the other hand, kept his fists making circles, and his back bent. Both men had good staying powers. A feature of the contest was that Layton hit lower down than Lacey. In the first instance Lacey had the best of a very cleverly fought round. Lacey knocked Layton down in the second round, and again in the third round. In the sixth round Layton shot from the shoulder and made Lacey's nose bleed. Lacey, warning to it, passed hard and, with a powerful right-hander, sent Layton on his hands. Layton seemed to improve with punishment; he appeared to be well set when the seventh round was reached; more or less even rounds then continued to the finish. In the nineteenth round, perhaps more than any other round, both men tried hard to bring matters to a conclusion; the twentieth, also, was very hot. One judge decided in favour of Layton, the other in favour of Lacey. St. Clair then gave it a draw.

FEATHER-WEIGHTS.—Dick Crane, N.M.L.L., H.M.S. *Vengeance*, v. Cooke, H.M.S. *Ocean*. Ten 2-minute rounds for a purse, and the 9st. 2 lbs. championship.

This was by far the best exhibition of skill during the evening. Both men, too, were in a particularly good humour during the fight. Crane, whose body was covered with one mass of tattoo marks, was a fierce fighter; in fact, to use another man's expression, "a perfect demon." He was a very clever boxer. Cooke's sparring, though, was perhaps more interesting than anything else of the various contests. In quick succession he changed from right foot forward to left in a most remarkable manner, and by so doing, at times completely perplexed his opponent. Another little trick he had was that of clinching whenever he thought he was disadvantageously placed. He is a tall man with a long reach. In the fourth round Crane became more at home to Cooke's peculiarities; with an upper cut he knocked Cooke on to the ropes. As he was about to follow up, the gong went. Cooke, when changing from right to left, sometimes had both arms out at full length, which, indeed, appeared a weak attitude for defence. In the fifth round Cooke seemed to be a bit shy of Crane's fierce sallies. Crane knocked him over with a weighty hit out. Cooke saved himself in the seventh round by clinching. In the ninth round Crane swung in several telling blows, both from right and left. Both judges decided on a win for Crane.

WELTER-WEIGHT.—Sto. Thompson, H.M.S. *Vengeance* (Welter-weight champion of the Med. and China Stations), v. Ted Smith, H.M.S. *Eclipse*; six-minute rounds for a purse.

Smith was an older and more experienced man than Thompson, who was admired greatly for his splendid physical qualities. It was a very fair bout. In the first round, Thompson, who seemed a bit shy, was knocked down. Thompson, if anything, got the best of the third and fourth rounds. Smith was sent on his hands in the fifth round; Smith got the best of the sixth round. One judge decided in favour of Smith, the other advocated a draw; St. Clair made it a win for Smith.

MIDDLE-WEIGHTS.—R. Nicholls, H.M.S. *Glory*, v. Tim Halligan, H.M.S. *Vengeance* (middle-weight champion of the Med. Station). Ten 2-minute rounds for Championship of the China Station and a purse.

This was a farce, and had a very poor effect is contributing towards making the evening a success. Nicholls was in a mortal funk of his opponent, on one occasion going down without being hit. He only saved himself from severe punishment by running away and clinching with Halligan. The judges gave a win for Halligan.

It is understood that the takings were good, the hall being comfortably filled. There were not, however, a great many civilian spectators. Halligan has issued a challenge to fight anyone of his own weight on the station for the Welter-weight championship. Crane likewise challenges for 9st. 2 lbs.

PAKHOI ATHLETIC SPORTS.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

The sports, which were announced some time ago to take place during the festive season, came off successfully on the afternoon of Christmas Day, in most auspicious circumstances, though the sun was probably a little too strong to be comfortable—for the competitors. The site selected was a suitable piece of ground at the rear of the British Consulate, kindly placed at the disposal of the committee by Mr. Consul Little. The arrangements throughout were quite an improvement on those of the previous year. There was a spacious match erected for the accommodation of ladies and children, and a separate booth for native gentlemen. The ladies turned out in good numbers, and their presence contributed not a little to the success of the affair. Refreshments and cakes were liberally served to all present, and the committee were most attentive to the duty of looking after the comfort of one and all present. The number of natives who also patronised the foreigners' sports was, needless to state, very large, so much so that it took about fifteen Customs boatmen and as many "braves,"

lent by the commander of the garrison, to keep the ground clear of the waves formed by the crowd of native spectators.

The following were the events, with results:—

1.—Menagerie Race (handicap), 50 yards. The competitors wearing costumes. An extra prize was given to the best costume, to be approved by the ladies.

Master Johnston's goat ... 1
Miss Mesny's goat ... 2

F. R. G. da Cruz and A. Williams, prizes for best costumes.

2.—100 yards Flat Race (handicap).

G. E. Bell ... 1
E. Bulbrook ... 2

3.—Egg and Spoon Race, 50 yards.

F. R. G. da Cruz ... 1
T. Loureiro ... 2

4.—Long Jump.

E. Bulbrook, 15 ft. 5 in. ... 1
E. Durlach, 14 ft. 8 in. ... 2
V. Drayson, 13 ft. ½ in. ... 3

5.—Needle and Thread Race.

E. Bulbrook and Madame Flayelle, 1

6.—Three-legged Race.

T. Loureiro and V. Drayson ... 1
E. Bulbrook and R. Henkel ... 2

7.—Stone and Bucket Race.

V. Drayson ... 1
F. R. G. da Cruz ... 2

8.—Wheelbarrow Race.

E. Durlach ... 1
G. E. Bell ... 2

9.—Obstacle Race.

V. Drayson ... 1
E. Durlach ... 2

10.—Tug-of-War—"Strong versus Weak" 8 a-side.

Mr. G. E. Bell and Mr. E. Durlach were elected captains. The latter having won the toss, he had the advantage of picking a few "strong." In the tussle the two teams appeared to be well matched, each keeping well his ground for nearly a minute, when Mr. Durlach's team began to drag their opponents inch by inch to the finish. The struggle occupied 1½ min.

Durlach's team ... 1

At the conclusion of the sports Mr. J. C. Johnston, the new Commissioner of Customs, on behalf of the committee apologised to the successful winners for the non-arrival of the prizes, which had been ordered from Hongkong, announcing at the same time that the distribution of prizes would take place at his (Mr. Johnston's) residence after the arrival of the objects, and that a circular would be sent round to invite all present to attend.

Judges.—Messrs. L. Flayelle (French Consul) H. A. Little (British Consul), Augustus Schomburg.

Starter.—Mr. F. J. Allshorn (Harbour Master).

Executive Committee.—Messrs. J. C. Johnston (Commissioner of Customs), H. von Varchmin (German Consul), Dr. J. H. Lowry.

Secretary to the Committee.—Mr. E. Durlach.

PRIZE DISTRIBUTION.

The prizes having arrived by the *Hue* on the 26th ult. the committee invited the community to meet at Mr. Johnston's residence at 4.30 o'clock on the following Monday to witness the final ceremony. The whole community answered to the invitation, and about 5 o'clock Mrs. Johnston started to dispense of the prizes. To each of the winners she spoke a few appropriate words, as she handed them their winnings. Before the company dispersed, cheers were given to Mrs. Johnston for her kindness in distributing the prizes, and for the committee, as well as to all who contributed to the success of the sports; and last, but not least, to the gentlemen who liberally gave to the prize-fund.

At last it would seem that the Lady Om (no Emily Brown, "the only American Empress") has been raised to the position of Empress of Corea. The celebration in connection with the event was to have taken place on the 6th inst. but the illness of the Corean Empress Dowager having become so serious as to threaten that unless the ceremony of coronation were speedily effected it might be interrupted by a period of mourning, the 25th ult. was substituted for the 6th inst.

WATER RETURN.

LEVEL AND STORAGE OF WATER IN RESERVOIRS ON THE 1ST JANUARY.

	LEVEL.	
	1903.	1904.
	Below overflow	Below overflow.
Tytam	14 ft. 11 in.	19 ft. 5 in.
Pokfulam	21 ft. 6 in.	22 ft. 7½ in.
Wongneicheong	25 ft. 2½ in.	20 ft. 2 in.

	STORAGE GALLONS.	
	1903.	1904.
Tytam	270,070,000	240,100,000
Pokfulam	21,600,000	19,575,000
Wongneicheong	1,900,000	2,766,000

Total 293,570,000 269,381,000
CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN THE CITY OF VICTORIA AND HILL DISTRICT DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER.

	1902.	1903.
Consumption ...	69,834,000	112,120,000 gallons
Estimated population	216,800	221,700

Consumption per head per day 10.4 16.3 gallons
Intermittent supply in force during the whole of December 1902; and from the 21st December, 1903.

CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN KOWLOON PENINSULA DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER.

	1902.	1903.
Consumption	14,516,000	14,568,000 gallons
Estimated population	59,500	65,400

Consumption per head per day 7.8 7.2 gallons
The Government Analyst reports that the water is of excellent quality.

W. CHATHAM,
Water Authority.

P. & O. S. N. CO.

The annual report for the year ended 30th September shows that including £11,060 brought forward, the total income amounted to £3,103,455, and after meeting working charges, paying Debenture interest, and transferring £250,000 to reserve, the net surplus was £219,997. This allows of the payment of the interest on the Preferred Stock and the distribution of dividends and a bonus upon the Deferred Stock equal to 13 per cent. for the year, leaving £11,197 to be carried forward. The cost of the large vessels recently constructed has caused some consideration as to the method of insurance which for the last 50 years has been carried out by the company itself. The directors considered that the best course to pursue was to continue this practice, but to strengthen the reserve by carrying £250,000 to its credit, raising the total to £1,250,000. Ample particulars are supplied of the new charter which has been granted to the company, an important proviso of which is that the company shall remain a British concern in name and in reality. The condition of the freight market has been notoriously and universally unfavourable during the past year, and the receipts under this head have shrunk in comparison with last year to the extent of £66,000. The deficiency would in fact have been considerably larger, but for certain exceptional earnings, especially in the direction of transport work. The Indian trade has, so far as the bulk is concerned, been on the whole good, but the rates have been extremely low. The heavy fall in the silver exchange interfered greatly with the trade between India, China, and Japan, but on the other hand, the China-Japan line running from London did quite as well as last year. The Australian business marked a further decline, owing to the effect of the prolonged drought. The passenger returns show a decrease of £51,627, which is mostly due to the reduction effected in the fares by the removal of the 10 per cent. surtax (imposed at the time when coal rose to an exceptional figure), and to the advantage accorded to the public by the extension of time for return tickets to a period of two years. There has been, however, a slight falling off in the receipts from the high point reached two years ago, which is almost entirely due to diminished traffic with the Australian Colonies. It is to be hoped that the recovery

of a certain measure of prosperity in the Colony since the drought ceased, will tend to a favourable reaction so far as shipping interests in general are concerned. The most prominent feature in connection with the expenditure side of the account is a reduction in the cost of coal to the extent of £91,961, which is due in a great measure to the low freights which have at the same time influenced the company's returns unfavourably, as pointed out above. Labour charges still continue on a very high scale throughout the East.

HONGKONG.

A long preliminary "report on a cattle disease in the Colony of Hongkong," signed by Drs. W. Hunter and A. Gibson, is published in the *Gazette*.

Subscriptions in connection with the new scholarship for Queen's College, to be named after Sir Henry Blake, are being sent in by local Chinese gentry.

On New Year's Day there was a special thanksgiving service at the R. C. Cathedral. The Rev. Father Gomez of Macao preached an eloquent sermon, and the Right Rev. Bishop Piazzoli officiated.

The visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum for the week ending 3rd January, 1904, (excluding New Year's Day) were 167 non-Chinese and 50 Chinese to the former, and 60 non-Chinese and 1,771 Chinese to the latter institution.

H.M.S.S. *Amphitrite*, *Talbot*, and *Phaenix* left port on Monday. After the *Amphitrite's* departure, the *Sparrowhawk* was despatched after her to cancel her orders to stop in Mire Bay, and order her to proceed north. Great activity amongst the fleet in harbour is noticeable; the *Leviathan* has been in dock, the *Cressy* is to do likewise and several warships have been coaling recently. Destroyers are kept fairly busy dodging in and out of port. They leave for gun practice at Mire Bay in the morning, returning the same evening.

Lieut. P. H. Campbell, R.E., hon. secretary to the Royal Hongkong Yacht Club, is going home on leave shortly. The yacht he has been sailing, the one-design class *Kathleen*, belonging to the officers of the Royal Engineers, will, after his departure, probably be sailed by Lieut. H. S. Gaskell, R.E. Who will take Lieut. Campbell's place as secretary of the Royal Hongkong Yacht Club is not yet decided. Lieut. Campbell leaves by a hired transport, the British India s.s. *Dilwara*, on or about the 21st inst.

News was received in the Colony on the 6th inst. that some matchsheds at Canton belonging to Messrs. Butterfield & Swire had been destroyed by fire on the previous night. Enquiry made on Wednesday at the firm's office elicited the information that there had been such an occurrence, though not so serious as at first reported to be the case. The matchsheds which were burned comprised a bungalow and out-houses at Pakhinkok, about a mile on this side of Canton, on the back reach, where the firm are at present engaged in reclaiming the water-front for the purpose of erecting godowns. The bungalow is used as a residence by the overseer in charge of the works. It appears that the fire occurred through an accident, and that the building's mentioned were completely destroyed. No one was injured. Damage is covered by insurance.

An Association has just been formed in the Colony, under the name of the Hongkong Journalists' Association. The rules are modelled to a certain extent on those of the Institute of Journalists at home, and the main objects are:—The elevation and improvement of the status of journalists in the Far East and the obtaining for them of formal and definite professional standing; the promotion of social intercourse between members and the holding of conferences; and the promotion, by all reasonable means, of the interests of journalism itself. A committee has been elected as follows:—Mr. T. H. Reid (*China Mail*), President; Messrs. P. W. Sergeant (*Hongkong Daily Press*), Douglas Story (*South China Morning Post*), W. H. Donald (*China Mail*); and Mr. E. A. Snawin (*Hongkong Telegraph*), Hon. Secretary and Treasurer. The Association admits both members and associates.

We are requested to announce that Mrs. May will be "at home" at Government House on the first and third Thursdays of every month.

The Hongkong A.D.C.'s performance of the comic opera *His Excellency the Governor* is likely to take place in the second week of February. Owing to the Theatre being so much engaged just now, it would be difficult to have a sufficient number of rehearsals to put it on before.

Another, the fourth, very successful dance was given on the 2nd inst. by the Masonic Quadrille Club in the Masonic Hall. As usual everything possible was done to provide an enjoyable evening, and the committee once again scored a success, dancing being kept up with great spirit until 1 a.m., when the last stragglers fled to catch the ferry for Kowloon.

Only two cases of communicable disease were reported in the week ending on the 2nd, one being of enteric fever and the other of small-pox. Both were European cases. Yet Hongkong is still partly quarantined in Manila, Shanghai, Siam, Indo-China, and British North Borneo. In the last instance, the ban seems a particular outrage from a neighbouring British Colony.

Every week our sporting friends seem to be more daring in their pursuit of birds. On the 3rd inst. they went all the way to Shaiheung, situated at the northernmost end of Taishan Bay. The weather was ideal; everything, in fact, bespoke a pleasant outing. After the steamer had anchored some considerable distance off the shore, they made their way near to land in a large sampan, and from there to the beach in flat mud-skiffs, shoved by women. The country in the vicinity of Shaiheung village, or, as the Chinese would call it, Shaiheung City, was flat, with a range of hills in the background. The country appeared to be in very good condition. Poor sport was at first experienced, but, later, between four and five (afternoon), pigeons commenced to arrive from all directions; they were retreating "home" to roost in the trees. To cut a long story short, no less than 163 were knocked down. They were mostly of the rock (about twice as big as a dove), and red-wing (small, about the size of a thrush) species. Shaiheung will be visited again.

At the Warrant Officers' Club a very successful smoking concert was held on Tuesday night under the genial presidency of Mr. Bryant. There were a many good entertainers present, and the evening passed away all too quickly. Mr. Bowen sang in his customary good form, his numbers comprising "The British Lion," "Simple Simon," "Queen of the Earth," and "In Friendship's Name." Among the other vocalists Mr. Kent made a good appearance in "I will be there" and "Mulligan's motor-car." Mr. Bond gave a capital rendering of "For old time's sake," while the irrepressible Mr. King obliged with his well-known favourite "The farmer's boy," and "Annie Laurie." Among the others who sustained the programme were Mr. Peck, "Winds that blow from the South" and "The sentry"; Mr. H. W. Wolfe, "A soldier and a man," and "The skipper and his boy"; Mr. Presley, "The Camptown Races" (gramophone); Mr. Gladwell, "I wonder why"; Mr. Presley, jun., "Updee"; Mr. Burden, "Think before you speak"; Mr. Webb, "Kitty Wills" and "The Union Jack"; Mr. Bryant, "An old man's darling," and Mr. Dingle, "How do you like London." Duties of accompanist were ably undertaken by Mr. Sheffield. The singing of "God Save the King," which brought an enjoyable entertainment to a close, took place a few minutes before midnight arrived so as to allow the Kowloon contingent to catch the last ferry.

The N.C. Daily News says that the Chinese fast cruisers *Haibien*, *Haich'i* and two others belonging to the Peiyang squadron, anchored at Woo-ung, began to assume their warpaint—dusky grey colour—last Saturday, and also to take in extra ammunition, coal and food supplies. It appears that orders had been received from Viceroy Yuan Shikai, who controls the Peiyang squadron, to be ready for emergencies. Sailing orders were expected every moment from the north by Admiral Sah, commanding the squadron.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Municipality of Saigon has decided to borrow 16 millions of francs for the construction of waterworks.

A gang of fifteen bandits, captured in Albay, P.I., have been taken to Manila, where they are all to be hanged as soon as arrangements can be made.

Wireless telegraphy between Nagasaki and Kelung, Formosa, which was under trial by two engineers of the Japanese Department of Communications, is reported to have proved effective.

The campaign in Manila for the removal of Señor Legarda from the Civil Commission is growing stronger, and President Roosevelt has instructed the Governor, General Wright, to deal with the matter at his discretion.

It is now stated that Viceroy Alexieff is not going to move his headquarters to Vladivostok, according to Japanese papers. It is also stated that the littoral government at Vladivostok is to be removed to Khabarovsk.

The trial of the Koreans Ko Ei-kon and Ro In-mei, the murderers of U-Han-zen, a Korean refugee in Japan, concluded at Hiroshima on the 26th ult., Ko being condemned to death and Ro to penal servitude for life. The former is expected to appeal.

The *Nori Krai*, Admiral Alexieff's organ, considers it a great mistake on the part of England to oppose Russia in the matter of Tibet at the very moment that symptoms of an Anglo-Russian rapprochement were being manifested. This is news indeed.

It is announced at Port Arthur from Seoul that the Korean Government has addressed to the French Ambassador an official note assuring him that the rumours relative to the concession to the Japanese for the Seoul-Wiju railway are absolutely without foundation.

The following is the number of foreign and native newspapers in North China:—Peking, 10; Tientsin, 14; Chefoo, 1; Têngchow, 1; Weihaiwei, 1; Tsingtao, 1; Port Arthur, 1—making in all 29, of which 17 are in Chinese, 7 in English, 1 in Japanese, 1 in German, 1 in Russian, and 1 in Italian.

The *Japan Mail*, while strongly deprecating Russia's procrastinating procedure in her negotiations with Japan, which is in such contrast with the diligence with which she is adding to her naval and military strength in the Far East, did not (on the 25th ult.) consider the situation hopeless.

As our Shanghai correspondent announced by telegram last week, Chang Yen-mao, formerly Chief Director of the Kaiping mines and an ex-Director of the North China Railway, has been cashiered. It appears that he was denounced to the Throne by Viceroy Yuan Shi-kai owing to the discovery of certain irregularities with regard to the mines, out of which he is alleged to have pocketed no less than two million taels.

The *Japan Mail* writes:—Insurgents have again made their appearance in Corea. They call themselves "Tong-hak"—or the Students of the East—but rumour says that they are no hing more than unhappy and middle-class subjects driven to despair by the exactions of the tax-collector. At all events, troops have been sent to deal with them, a duty which might almost have been left to the winter season. This is not the time for insurrections in Corea. We cannot forget, however, that a rising of *Tong-hak* was the proximate cause of the war of 1894-5. *Absit omen!*

About 7 p.m. on Christmas Day a foreigner was found lying injured close to the railway line at Nishinomiya, Japan. The man had evidently been run over by a passing train, as his left leg was badly injured. He was sent to the Kobe Hospital, where he is now undergoing treatment. He is likely to be in hospital some months. The man belongs to Texas, U.S.A. His name is Honeyett, and he is thirty-four years of age. He says he was in the U.S. Army and had recently arrived from Hongkong. He had been suffering from dysentery, and was making his way back to the States as well as he was able without funds.

According to the *P. and T. Times*, Chang Yen-mao's fault is selling the Kaiping Mines to the present company without obtaining permission from the Viceroy of Chili, though there was no Viceroy at the time to appeal to. At present he is only suspended, and has been given two months in which to recover the mines for the Chinese.

Capt. the Hon. C. M. B. Ponsonby, M.V.O., 3rd Grenadier Guards, Aide-de-Camp to H. E. Sir Henry Blake, and second son of Viscount Duncannon, arrived at Colombo on the 17th inst. by the French mail steamer *Polynésie*. With his arrival, Sir John Keane ceased to act as A.D.C., and assumed duties as Private Secretary, a post he held here.

Seven Chinese stowed away on the steamer *Rohilla Maru*, and were apprehended at Manila as they were attempting to make a landing. Colonel H. B. McCoy, acting collector of customs, has decided that the Toyo Kisen Kaisha S.S. Co. must pay a fine of \$2,100. The law imposes a penalty of \$300 for each Chinese secretly landed on Philippine soil.

The Tokyo correspondent of the *N.C. Daily News* telegraphed on the 28th ult.:—It is not whether there shall be peace or war that now constitutes the question, but the Government is considering how to meet the worst. Marquis Ito, Marquis Yamagata, Count Matsukata, and other Privy Councillors are this forenoon examining the Ministers, and finally settling measures necessary to defray the extraordinary military expenses, and the cost of the completion of the Seoul-Fusan railway before the end of 1904. The Elder Statesmen and the Cabinet are firmly united in the determination to make a bold stand.

The *Ostasiatische Lloyd* publishes the following telegram dated Berlin, 30th December:—The situation in the Far East has been considered here, during the last few days, to be a little more serious, but not desperate. Now all minds have been made easier by an official notification by Japan to the German Government, according to which Japan has neither presented to Russia an ultimatum, nor is on the point of so doing. On the other hand, it is reported from St. Petersburg that the Russian Government has expressed great satisfaction at the conciliatory tone of the last Japanese declaration. The Russian Press is also now much quieter. As has been shown by an exchange of views between all European Governments, no one thinks that war is unavoidable.

The *Ostasiatische Lloyd* publishes the following telegram dated Berlin, 24th December:—The *Kölnische Zeitung* receives a report from St. Petersburg according to which Grand-Duke Alexander Michaelovich was acting together with other most influential persons against the outbreak of war, at least for a postponement of the conflict. They hope to achieve this, between others, by a transfer of the negotiations from Tokyo to St. Petersburg. The *Frankfurter Zeitung* learns from London that Russia is making concessions to Japan with regard to Corea for the sole purpose of gaining time for further armaments. But Japan was demanding territorial guarantees in Corea to be safeguarded against any future attack of Russia. The pessimism of the English and French Press about the Far East question is not shared by the respective governments.

A Mr. H. C. Pearson gives the *Times of Ceylon* some notes on Mr. Alleyne Ireland, in connection with the latter's attack on the Hongkong Civil Service. Mr. Ireland was simply a man, said Mr. Pearson, who tried to make as much as he could get by writing up sensations. He had as his so-called manager an American named Dr. Thorpe, of Boston. This Dr. Thorpe came to Mr. Pearson one day and informed him that Mr. Ireland had obtained a concession of 20,000 acres of land in British North Borneo, which he wished to exploit, if he could secure the necessary capital, for its gutta-percha. Mr. Pearson declined to have anything to do with the speculation, and suggested that Mr. Ireland might obtain what he wanted in England, where the people knew something about it. Mr. Pearson thought it "a great shame" that such a man should turn on his hosts as he did. He would be shunned wherever he went, particularly in America.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

Messrs. Welch, Lewis & Co. in Shanghai their Circular of 23rd December state:—Black Tea.—small business has been done since our last advices at slightly firmer rates. Stock consists principally of second crop Ningchows for which the Teamen are firm holders at 11s. 20.23 per picul. Green Tea.—Pingsuey.—The small stock remaining is of common quality, which the Teamen are trying to ship off. Hyson.—No business has been done since our last, the stock consists of 1st Hysons of medium quality. Settlements since the 11th instant.

SILK.

Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Son in their Circular of the 23rd of December, state:—The home markets are quiet. Gold Kiling is quoted in London at 12/-. Raw silk.—Only two small transactions are reported in Tsatlees. Coarse silks however have been in some request, and a fair business has been done in Green Kaihings. Yellow Silk.—A small business has been done at rates quoted below. Hand Filatures.—A few settlements only in new and ordinary style to report. Steam Filatures.—A slightly increased amount has been done this week in Steam Filatures, but the markets remain weak. Waste Silk.—Is very quiet. The Continental demand for Tussah Wastes has stopped, but owing to the small stock now on hand prices show no material alteration. Gum Wastes are in very small supply and there is no business doing in these. Holders demand extremely high prices.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG 8th January.—The prices are slightly advancing holders being firm.
 Shekloong, No. 1, White.....\$8.65 to \$8.70 pcls.
 Do. " 2, White..... 7.65 to 7.70 "
 Do. " 1, Brown..... 6.10 to 6.15 "
 Do. " 2, Brown..... 5.90 to 5.95 "
 Swatow, No. 1, White..... 8.55 to 8.60 "
 Do. " 2, White..... 7.60 to 7.65 "
 Do. " 1, Brown..... 5.95 to 6.00 "
 Do. " 2, Brown..... 5.80 to 5.85 "
 Foochow Sugar Candy12.90 to 12.95 "
 Shekloong "10.75 to 10.80 "

RICE.

HONGKONG 8th January.—Large arrivals have been reported, the prices are consequently declining.
 Saigon, Ordinary\$3.05 to \$3.10
 " Round, Good quality 4.70 to 4.75
 " Long 4.85 to 4.90
 Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2 3.60 to 3.65
 " Garden, " No. 1 4.40 to 4.45
 " White, 4.90 to 4.95
 " Fine Cargo 5.30 to 5.35

OPIUM.

31st December.—

Quotations are:—Allowance net. to 1 catty.
 Malwa New\$960 to \$980 per picul.
 Malwa Old\$1,000 to \$1,020 do.
 Malwa Older\$1,040 to \$1,060 do.
 Malwa V. Old\$1,080 to \$1,100 do.
 Persian fine quality. \$840 to — do.
 Persian extra fine\$900 to — do.
 Patna New\$1,260 to — per chest.
 Patna Old — to — do.
 Benares New\$1,260 to — do.
 Benares Old — to — do.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 20th Nov.—The prices ruling are as follows:—

COTTON YARN—

Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20, ... \$ 90.00 to \$128.00
 English—Nos. 16 to 24, ... 114.00 to 120.00
 " 22 to 24, ... 120.00 to 128.00
 " 28 to 32, ... 136.00 to 142.00
 " 38 to 42, ... 155.00 to 170.00

Reported sales 1,500 bales.

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

per piece
 Grey Shirtings—6 lbs. 2.30 to 2.40
 7 lbs. 2.50 to 2.80
 8.4 lbs. 3.50 to 4.25
 9 to 10 lbs. ... 4.30 to 5.50
 White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd. 2.90 to 3.25
 58 to 60 " 3.30 to 4.00
 64 to 66 " 4.25 to 5.75
 Fine 6.00 to 8.50
 Book-folds 5.00 to 8.00

Victoria Lawns—12 yards ... 0.85 to 1.75
 T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y. 2.30 to 2.80
 7lbs. (32 ") " 2.50 to 3.00
 6lbs. (32 ") Mexs. 2.50 to 3.00
 7lbs. (32 ") " 3.10 to 3.30
 8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.) 3.30 to 4.05
 Drills, English—40 yds., 13½ to 14 lbs.) 4.75 to 7.30

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8 lbs.) 1.90 to 4.00
 Brocades—Dyed — to —

DAMASKS—

per yard
 Chintzes—Assorted 0.12 to 0.25
 Velvets—Black, 22 in. 0.28 to 0.47½
 Velvetens—18 in. 0.19 to 0.23

per dozen
 Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 9.30 to 3.00

WOOLLENS—

per yard
 Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops 0.77½ to 2.25
 German — to —
 Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths 1.25 to 3.50

per piece
 Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-10 lbs. 6.95 to 9.20
 Assorted 7.10 to 9.45
 Camlets—Assorted 12.50 to 33.00
 Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches } 12.50 to 22.50
 Assorted
 Orleans—Plain, 31 in. 10.00 to —

per pair
 Blankets—8 to 12 lbs. 0.61 to 0.80
 Fine quality 1.25 to 1.85

METALS—

per picul
 Iron—Nail Rod 4.50 to —
 Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.) 4.50 to —
 Swedish Bar 4.55 to —
 Small Round Rod 4.75 to —
 Hoop & to 1½ in. 6.50 to —
 Wire, 16/25 oz. 9.80 to —
 Wire Rope, Old 3.00 to —

METALS—

per picul
 Lead, L.B. & Co. and Hole Chop 9.25 to —
 Australian 9.25 to —
 Yellow Metal—Muntz 14/20 oz. 41.00 to —
 Vivian's 14/20 oz. 41.00 to —
 Elliot's 14/20 oz. 41.00 to —
 Composition Nails 61.00 to —
 Japan Copper, Slabs. 38.50 to —
 Tin 89.00 to —

per box.
 Tin-Plates 7.40 to —

per cwt. cases
 Steel ½ to ¾ 6.30 to —

SUNDRIES—

per picul
 Quicksilver 170.00 to —
 per box
 Window Glass 4.20 to —

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co. in their piece goods trade report of 23rd December, state:—The war scare is on in earnest now, and what with telegraphic reports and local rumours, no one knows what to believe. That the political situation is critical is beyond dispute, and it is right for those who think their interests would be affected by the outbreak of hostilities to take what precautions they deem necessary. It is in this spirit that operators in this market are now acting each one as best suits his own book, without any sort of concerted action; therefore it is exceedingly difficult to define the position of the market as a whole. An extraordinarily large quantity of goods appear to have changed hands "on paper," both from first and second hands, the dealers quite realising that the imports for the next six or eight months must be very much curtailed, with the market here at famine prices. At the same time they do not want to run any risks by holding for the top of the market; and so are turning over what they can to the country merchants whenever a fair profit is obtainable. The situation is again complicated by the fluctuations in exchange, and the continued upward movement of Cotton; but at the same time not always followed by a uniform advance in home quotations, as makers of well established cloths have no doubt made ample provision for their prospective requirements before prices reached the present level. The Market Book has presented an unusually animated appearance this week, but it is noticeable the sales are composed

entirely of Manchester goods, American makes being conspicuous by their absence. If, as is declared, the Hankow, Tientsin, and other merchants are really the purchasers, remarkably good prices must have been ruling in the country for some time past, or it would not have been possible to have effected such sales, notwithstanding the fact they are all considerably below replacing cost. The bulk of the goods are already in stock, the majority of importers who have cargo to arrive preferring to take the risk of the market themselves. Meanwhile a steady trade is doing with the River markets, as evidenced by the really satisfactory clearances for the time of the year. Advices from Manchester are naturally very strong, but in spite of the high prices prevailing a fair amount of business seem practicable. Cotton continues on the upward grade, as regards the American staple at all events, to-day's quotation coming 7.06d., but Egyptian is lower at 8½d. It is very improbable that buying to any extent can be indulged in for this market, though there are certain goods that have an established demand and must be bought whatever the price, nevertheless it seems almost incredible that the trade can go on when prices for some cloths have advanced as much as two shillings in a few weeks! The present crisis in the Cotton industry is likely to have a very disastrous effect on the American trade with this country, as manufacturers have practically given up the weaving of heavy cloths. At the end of October it was estimated that the total stock of Domestic in the States was only 25,000 bales of all kinds, but half of which were available for export. The advance since in the raw staple has quite put a stop to the making of heavy Cloths, as at the present price of Cotton it cannot be done at any way near the equivalent of what the most sanguine could expect rates to rise to in this market. This will mean the stoppage of many mills, the looms in which are only adapted for weaving coarse yarn. At the sale to-day there was a firm tendency for cotton goods and prices improved, but not so for woollens. Although the direct Imports may account for some of the falling off they seem likely to do so in future to a much larger extent, as a determined effort is being made to establish that trade on a permanent footing and with, apparently, great prospects of success. Home Manufacturers must not, therefore, run away with the idea that new outlets have been opened, for it is really only "robbing Peter to pay Paul," as every piece that goes direct means so much less needed for this market, and it is a question for them to decide which to encourage.

HONGKONG QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 4th December.

Beans\$3½ @ 4
 Borax\$17 @ 19
 Camphor (China).....\$95
 " (Formosa).....\$112 @ 115
 Cassia (First quality)\$23 @ 25
 " (Second ")\$13 @ 15
 " Oil\$170 @ 175
 Cloves\$15 @ 35
 Fennel Seed Oil\$315 @ 320
 Galangale\$3 @ 6
 Garlic\$—
 Glue\$28
 Grapes\$11½ @ 20
 Ivory\$250 @ 700
 Kismiss\$15 @ 21
 Olibanum\$10 @ 25
 Rosa Oil\$60 @ 175
 Saltpetre\$10½ @ 11½
 Sandal wood\$27 @ 32
 " Oil\$350 @ 400
 Senna Leaves.....\$7
 Sugar Candy\$10½ @ 11
 Vermilion\$86½ @ 89
 Wax\$44 @ 50

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS

Per P. & O. Steamer *Simba* sailed on 2nd Jan. For London:—15 bales raw silk, 13 cases silks, 3 cases bird feathers, 10 cases vermillion, 2 cases blackwoodware, 2 cases screens, 5 cases sundries. For Marseilles:—175 bales raw silk, 4 cases hats. For Glasgow:—1 case silks. For Manchester:—50 bales waste silk. For Gibraltar:—5 cases silks. For Lyons:—5 bales raw silk. For Milan:—80 bales raw silk.

FREIGHTS.

Per Conference Steamers. To London and Northern Continental ports:—Tea 52/6 per ton of 40 cubic feet. General cargo 52/6 per ton of 40 cubic feet. Seeds 47/6 per ton of 20 cwt. To Marseilles and Havre.—General 48/- net per ton of 40 cubic feet. Seeds 47/6 net per ton of 20 cwt. To New York (overland).—Tea 1 1/4 G\$ cents per lb. gross. To New York via Suez.—30/- per ton of 40 cubic feet. To Shanghai.—tea, Taels 1.80 per ton of 13 half-chests. To Shanghai, General, Taels 1.80 per ton weight or measurement.

HOMEWARD FREIGHT.

Messrs. Wheelock & Co. in their Report dated Shanghai 24th inst. state:—There is no change to report in our Homeward Freight Market since last writing as regards cargo to Europe, but with the end of the tea season there has been a decided falling-off in the quantity offering for America, and boats on the New York via Suez berth are receiving very poor support, in fact so poor that one has been withdrawn. Coastwise.—Coal freights from Japan to this port are slightly firmer but to Hongkong they have dropped to \$1.30 per ton of coal; the river trade to the South is all in the hands of the regular liners, and there is nothing offering for outsiders. For London and the Continent.—There are quite a number of steamers going on this berth beside the mails, viz:—s.s. *Flintshire* now in port sailing on the 26th inst., s.s. *Ceylon* and *Tamba Maru* sailing for Marseilles, London and Antwerp on the 2nd and 4th prox. and s.s. *Glenfarg* and *Denbighshire* for London and the Continent about first week of January. For Havre and Hamburg.—The s.s. *Ambria* sails on the 3rd, whilst the *Savoia* leaves for Rotterdam and Hamburg on the 4th prox. For New York via Suez.—The s.s. *Himera* clears to-day and the other boats that were to have followed closely for December loading are all being kept back owing to the scarcity of cargo here and in the South. The order will now be s.s. *Nubia* to sail about 29th inst., s.s. *Sikh* and *Hudson* about 5th prox. and s.s. *Sagami* about the 15th.

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 8th January, 1904.—With the exception of a slight rise in Hongkong and Whampoa Docks, Lands, and a few minor stocks, we have nothing of importance to report. Business continues very restricted and dull, owing to the very unsettled state of the political situation and the rise in sterling exchange.

BANKS.—Small sales of Hongkong and Shanghai are reported at \$650, but the market closes weak with sellers at that rate. Nationals have been placed in small lots at \$31 1/2, but close firmer with small buyers at \$32 1/2.

MARINE INSURANCES.—With the exception of small sales of Unions at \$490 we have nothing to report under this heading.

FIRE INSURANCES.—China Fires have changed hands at \$92 and \$92 1/2, closing steady at \$92 1/2. Hongkong's continue out of favour with sellers at \$305.

SHIPPING.—Small sales of Hongkong, Canton, and Macao are reported at \$3 1/4. Indo-Chinas have been negotiated at \$7 1/2 and \$7 3/4, market closing with sales at \$7 3/4. Star Ferries have been done at \$30 for old, and Shell Transports at 22s. 6d. and 23s.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have been on offer during the week at \$104 without inducing buyers to come forward and close with sellers at \$103. Luzons neglected and still without business.

MINING.—No business to report under this heading, but Punjoms have fallen to \$1 and Raubs to \$6.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks, continuing in demand at \$206, and no shares being forthcoming, the rate gradually rose to \$207 1/2, at which, and later at \$208, \$208 1/2, and \$209, some shares changed hands. At time of writing shares are obtainable at \$209, and the demand seems to have temporarily ceased. Kowloon Wharfs with sellers at \$97, and no buyers, gradually fell to \$95 1/2 and \$95, at which rates a few shares changed hands. Parnham's have improved to Tls. 123, after sales at \$121, \$122 and \$122 1/2.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been placed at \$155 1/2 and \$156, closing steady at the latter rate. Hotels continue on offer without business at \$148. West Points have found buyers at \$52 and \$52 1/2, closing steady. Kowloon Lands have been placed at \$35, and further shares are

wanted at that rate. Humphreys' Estates have been negotiated at \$11 1/2, cum new issue, and close at \$11 ex new issue and \$1 1/2 for the new issue.

COTTONS.—No changes or business to report under this heading.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Manila Investments Co. being now incorporated with the Philippine Tobacco Trust Co., under the title of the Philippine C., Ltd., the two first-mentioned companies have been expunged from our list and replaced by the Philippine Co., Ltd. Green Islands have been placed at \$24 1/2, Watsons at \$14 1/2. Old Electrics at \$12.50 and China P. evidents at \$9 1/2 and \$9 1/4, the last mentioned closing in demand at a probable higher rate.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai ..	\$125	(\$650, sellers London, £61. 0s.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	£8	\$32 1/2, buyers
B. Shares	£8	\$32 1/2, buyers
Foun. Shares ..	£1	\$10
Insurance—		
Union	\$100	\$400, sales & sellers
China Traders	\$25	\$56, sellers
North China	\$25	Tls. 219
Yangtze	\$80	\$135
Canton	\$50	\$175
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$305, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$92 1/2
Steamship Coys.—		
H. Canton and M.	\$15	\$31 1/2, sellers
Indo-China S. N.	\$10	\$73, buyers
China and Manila ..	\$50	\$17, sellers
Douglas Steamship ..	\$50	\$30, sellers
Star Ferry	\$10	\$30, sales
Shell Transport and } Trading Co. }	\$5	\$19, sellers.
	\$21	23/- sellers
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$103, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$10, sellers
Mining—		
Punjom	\$11	\$1, sellers
Do. Preference	\$1	25 cents
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$600, sellers
Jebebu	\$5	50 cents, sellers
Raubs	18/10	\$6, sellers
Docks, Etc.—		
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$209, sellers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$9 1/2, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$63	\$38, sellers
S. C. F. Boyd & Co.	Tls. 100	Tls. 122, buyers
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$156, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$35, buyers
West Point Building ..	\$50	\$52 1/2
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$148, sellers
Humphreys Estate.	\$10	\$11, ex, now issue
	\$2 1/2	\$2 1/2
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 33, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 25, buyers
Laon Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 40, buyers
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 170, sales
Hongkong	\$10	\$15 1/2, sales & buyers
Green Island Cement ..	\$10	\$24 1/2, sales & sellers
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	\$12	\$8 1/2, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$14 1/2, sellers
Hongkong Electric	\$5	\$12 1/2, sales & buyers
	\$5	\$7, sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$1.40, buyers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$1.45, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$49, buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$245, sellers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$300.
Hk. Steam Water- Boat Co., Ltd. }	\$10	{ \$15 1/2, buyers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$12 1/2, buyers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$40
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12/6	\$3, sellers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$9, buyers
Do	\$10	\$210, buyers
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$5	nominal
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$9 1/2, buyers
Watkins Ltd.	\$10	\$7 1/2
China Light & Power Co., Ltd. }	\$10	{ \$5
Powell, Ltd.	\$10	\$9 1/2, buyers
Shanghai and Hong- kong Dyeing and Cleaning Co., Ltd. }	\$53	{ \$50
Canton, Hongkong Ice Cigar Companies—	\$10	\$10, nominal
Alhambra Limited.	\$500	\$250
Phippine Tobacco Trust Co., Ltd. }	\$50	{ \$10, sellers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

EXCHANGE.

SATURDAY, 9th January.

ON LONDON.—

Telegraphic Transfer 1/9 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand 1/9 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight 1/9 1/2
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight 1/10 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight 1/10 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight 1/10 1/2

ON PARIS.—

Bank Bills, on demand 228 1/2

ON GERMANY.—

Credits 4 months' sight 232 1/2
On demand 185 1/2

ON NEW YORK.—

Bank Bills, on demand 14 1/2
Credits, 60 days' sight 4 1/2

ON BOMBAY.—

Telegraphic Transfer 134 1/2
Bank, on demand 134 1/2

ON CALCUTTA.—

Telegraphic Transfer 134 1/2
Bank, on demand 134 1/2

ON SHANGHAI.—

Bank, at sight 7 1/2
Private, 30 days' sight 72 1/2

ON YOKOHAMA.—

On demand 89 1/2

ON MANILA.—

On demand nominal

ON SINGAPORE.—

On demand nominal

ON BATAVIA.—

On demand 109 1/2

ON HAIPHONG.—

On demand 1 1/2 p.c. pm.

ON SAIGON.—

On demand 1 p.c. pm.

ON BANGKOK.—

On demand 64

SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate ..

\$1.095

GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael

57.50

BAR SILVER, per oz.

26 1/2

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

ARRIVALS.

December—

31, Germanius, German str., from Batoum.
31, Gloamin, British str., from Penarth.
31, Hongkong Maru, Jap. str., from S. F.isco.
31, Stolberg, German str., from Moji.
31, Taiyuan, British str., from Australia.

January—

1, Anhui, British str., from Amoy.
1, China, German str., from Saigon.
1, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.
1, M. Struve, German str., from Haiphong.
1, Onsang, British str., from Java.
1, P. C. C. Kiao, Brit. str., from Bangkok.
1, Progress, German str., from Swatow.
1, Simla, British str., from Shanghai.
1, Thales, British str., from Coast Ports.
1, Wakamatsu Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
1, Woosung, British str., from Shanghai.
2, Bengal, British str., from Bombay.
2, Germania, German str., from Chefoo.
2, Hongwan I, British str., from Singapore.
2, Kwongsang, British str., from Shanghai.
2, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
2, Mad. Rickmers, Ger. str., from Bangkok.
2, Paoting, British str., from Wuhu.
2, Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.
2, aifu, German str., from Hongay.
2, Taishun, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
2, Triumph, German str., from Haiphong.
2, Tsurugisan Maru, Jap. str., from K'notzu.
2, Waihora, British str., from Hoihow.
3, Alesia, German str., from Hamburg.
3, Flintshire, British str., from Shanghai.
3, Hailoong, British str., from Swatow.
3, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
3, Heathdene, British str., from Moji.
3, Hopsang, British str., from Moji.
3, Hsieh Ho, Chinese str., from Swatow.
3, Kingsing, British str., from Canton.
3, Laertes, British str., from Saigon.
3, Marie Jensen, Ger. str., from Samarang.
3, Nestor, British str., from Liverpool.
3, Nubia, German str., from Shanghai.
3, Strombus, British str., from Singapore.
3, Tjimahi, Dutch str., from Yokohama.
4, Arara, British str., from Manila.
4, Fausang, British str., from Canton.
4, Hue, French str., from Haiphong.
4, Hupeh, British str., from Canton.
4, Kiautschou, German str., from Shanghai.
4, Kin-hiu Maru, Japanese str., from Kobe.
4, Kolsichang, German str., from Bangkok.
4, Kwangtah, Chinese str., from Canton.
4, Lydia, German str., from Canton.
4, Rubi, British str., from Manila.
4, Shansi, British str., from Canton.
4, Takang, British str., from Canton.
5, Amara, British str., from Moji.
5, Ayr, British str., from Moji.
5, Ceylon, British str., from Yokohama.
5, Dunolly, British str., from Westport.
5, Firth of Dornoch, British str., from Moji.

5, Haitan, British str., from Swatow.
 5, Holstein, German str., from Haiphong.
 5, Kowloon, German str., from Canton.
 5, Lyria, German str., from Hamburg.
 5, Marie Valerie, Austrian str., from Trieste.
 5, P. C. C. Kiao, Ger. str., from Bangkok.
 5, P. Valdemar, Rus. str., from St. Petersburg.
 5, Rainbow, U.S. cruiser, from Cavite.
 5, Riojun Maru, Japanese str., from Seattle.
 5, Rosetta Maru, Japanese str., from Manila.
 6, Andree Rickmers, Ger. str., from Bangkok.
 6, Arratoon Apcar, Brit. str., from Calcutta.
 6, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 6, Hermann Lerche, Rus. str., from V. tock.
 6, Hoihao, French str., from Haiphong.
 6, Ischia, Italian str., from Bombay.
 6, Kinkiang, British str., from Chinkiang.
 6, Lyeemoon, German str., from Shanghai.
 6, Tientsin, British str., from Moji.
 6, Tjimahi, Dutch str., from Batavia.
 6, Wilmington, U.S. gunboat, from Swatow.
 7, Anping Maru, Jap. str., from Coast Ports.
 7, Carl, German str., from Danzig.
 7, Chihli, British str., from Swatow.
 7, D. A. Barty, Ger. str., from Emden (Ger.).
 7, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
 7, Hailong, British str., from Swatow.
 7, Hangsang, British str., from Shanghai.
 7, Kwongsang, British str., from Canton.
 7, Michael Jensen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
 7, Ningpo, British str., from Chinkiang.
 7, Purnea, British str., from Singapore.
 7, Rajaburi, German str., from Bangkok.
 7, Sachsen, German str., from Bremen.
 7, Taishun, Chinese str., from Canton.
 7, Tamba Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
 7, Waishing, British str., from Canton.
 8, Batavia, British str., from Barry.
 8, Chenan, British str., from Cardiff.
 8, Daijin Maru, Jap. str., from Tamsui.
 8, Dardanus, British str., from Shanghai.
 8, Prima, Norwegian str., from Haiphong.
 8, Savoia, German str., from Moji.
 8, Taiwan, British str., from Shanghai.
 9, Anping, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 9, China, Amr. str., from San Francisco.
 9, Foochow, British str., from Wuhu.
 9, Kaifong, British str., from Manila.
 9, Luchs, German gunboat, from Amoy.
 9, Parla, British str., from Manila.
 9, Rohilla Maru, Japanese str., from Manila.
 9, Shaoshing, British str., from Canton.

January—
 DEPARTURES.
 1, Daiya Maru, Japanese str., for Nagasaki.
 1, Decima, German str., for Saigon.
 1, Loksang, British str., for Swatow.
 2, Alcoa, British str., for Manila.
 2, Bangkok, German str., for Bangkok.
 2, Bourbon, French str., for Saigon.
 2, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
 2, Deuteros, German str., for Chinkiang.
 2, Else, German str., for Tientsin.
 2, Gaelic, British str., for Shanghai.
 2, Germinus, German str., for Amoy.
 2, Hailong, British str., for Swatow.
 2, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
 2, Hinsang, British str., for Sonrabaya.
 2, Lodsén, Norwegian str., for Kobe.
 2, Loongmoon, German str., for Shanghai.
 2, Maidzuru Maru, Jap. str., for Anping.
 2, Mathilde, German str., for Toorane.
 2, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 2, Palermo, British str., for Shanghai.
 2, Queen Mary, British str., for Nagasaki.
 2, Rinaldo, British sloop, for Weihaiwei.
 2, Roilla Maru, Japanese str., for Manila.
 2, Simla, British str., for Europe.
 2, Suiberg, German str., for Shanghai.
 2, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
 2, Wachang, British str., for Iloilo.
 2, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.
 3, Badenia, German str., for Yokohama.
 3, Bengal, British str., for Shanghai.
 3, Choysang, British str., for Shanghai.
 3, Vale of Doon, British barque, for Rajang.
 4, Amphitrite, British cr., for Weihaiwei.
 4, Brilliant, British 4-m. bge., for N. York.
 4, Calchas, British str., for London.
 4, Fearless, British cruiser, for Foochow.
 4, Germania, German str., for Canton.
 4, Hailan, French str., for Pakhoi.
 4, Hailong, British str., for Swatow.
 4, Himara, British str., for Singapore.
 4, M. Stuve, German str., for Haiphong.
 4, Nanshan, British str., for Swatow.
 4, Nestor, British str., for Shanghai.
 4, Pronto, Norwegian str., for Haiphong.

4, Takang, British str., for Shanghai.
 4, Talbot, British cruiser, for Weihaiwei.
 4, Tyr, Norwegian str., for Hongay.
 5, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
 5, Flintshire, British str., for London.
 5, Hongkong, French str., for Hoihow.
 5, Hongwan I, British str., for Amoy.
 5, Hupeh, British str., for Shanghai.
 5, Kingsing, British str., for Shanghai.
 5, Kwangtah, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 5, Lodsén, Norwegian str., for Kobe.
 5, Nanshan, British str., for Swatow.
 5, Progress, German str., for Quinhon.
 5, Shansi, British str., for Shanghai.
 5, Spence, German gunboat, for Kiangtshon.
 5, Taiyuan, British str., for Kobe.
 5, Telemachus, British str., for Saigon.
 6, Ceylon, British str., for London.
 6, Esang, British str., for Shanghai.
 6, Fausang, British str., for Samarang.
 6, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
 6, Hue, French str., for Haiphong.
 6, Kiangtshou, German str., for Europe.
 6, Lydia, German str., for Chinkiang.
 6, Lyria, German str., for Kiangtshou.
 6, Nubia, German str., for New York.
 6, Sungkiang, British str., for Manila.
 6, Triumph, German str., for Haiphong.
 6, Wakamatsu Maru, Jap. str., for Moji.
 7, China, German str., for Saigon.
 7, Holstein, German str., for Haiphong.
 7, Kinkiang, British str., for Canton.
 7, Lyeemoon, German str., for Canton.
 7, Phra C. Kiao, German str., for Bangkok.
 7, Prinz Valdemar, Danish str., for Dalny.
 7, Shingu Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 7, Tientsin, British str., for Bombay.
 8, Alesia, German str., for Yokohama.
 8, Carl, German str., for Yokohama.
 8, Gregory Apcar, British str., for Calcutta.
 8, Haiching, British str., for Coast Ports.
 8, Hsieh Ho, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 8, Kolschang, German str., for Swatow.
 8, Kwongsang, British str., for Shanghai.
 8, Mad. Rickmers, German str., for Bangkok.
 8, Maria Rickmers, German str., for Hoihow.
 8, Ningpo, British str., for Canton.
 8, Phranang, German str., for Bangkok.
 8, Sachsen, German str., for Shanghai.
 8, Strathgyle, British str., for Yokohama.
 8, Whampoa, British str., for Shanghai.
 9, Hailong, British str., for Swatow.
 9, Heathdene, British str., for Singapore.
 9, Hermann Lerche, Russian str., for Oessa.
 9, Hoihao, French str., for Haiphong.
 9, Hongkong Maru, Jap. str., for S. Francisco.
 9, Loongsang, British str., for Manilla.
 9, Mausang, British str., for Sandakan.
 9, Maria Valerie, Aust. str., for Shanghai.
 9, P. C. Kiao, German str., for Bangkok.
 9, Rosetta Maru, Japanese str., for Manila.
 9, Rubi, British str., for Manila.
 9, Stollberg, German str., for Vladivostok.
 9, Tamba Maru, Japanese str., for London.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per Simla, from Shanghai for London, Mr. B. A. Semokh; from Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. John Eaton, Mr. and Mrs. White, Mr. and Mrs. H. Walker, Major and Mrs. Lee S. Smith, Mrs. Louis Brown, Mrs. R. H. Crundon, Mrs. Duryea and Mrs. L. A. Seaton, Misses J. Chambers, Margaret E. Brown and Amelie P. Duncan, Dr. R. A. Crundon, Engr.-Comdr. W. J. Anstey, Lieut. Andrew L. Strarge, J. W. Rainier, Duncan W. Roe and Herbert Greenwood, Sub-Lieut. L. T. C. Sackville West, A. S. D. George and Farmer, Messrs. John J. Fisher, Curtis E. Pierce, W. H. Workman, D. A. Mc. Gilvary, W. H. Church, H. H. Robinson, Leon Collier and Geo. Young R.N.; for Marseilles, Madame Azoulay, Messrs Sydney, Haywood and Thompson; for Brindisi, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Farrie, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Ford, Mrs. J. S. Chatoon, Mrs. Marry S. Seeley, Mrs. Adelaide C. Stebbins, Mrs. Anns D. Welsh, Mrs. L. L. Babb and Mrs. Crossley, Miss Mary Harvey, Messrs. Elizabeth B. Custer, F. H. Hart and G. F. Holcomb; for Port Said, Mr. and Mrs. Rapelyea, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Dietz and Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Rew, Messrs. Hornstein, Oscar Ruebhausen, Thos. Lewis, H. C. Rew, Tangeman and G. Diez; for Bombay, Messrs. F. F. Cassinally, N. M. J. Mahomed, H. W. D. Shellard and A. S. Ebrahim; for Singapore, Sub-Lieut. F. E. H. G. Hobour

Messrs. E. E. Choangalia, Hilton, E. L. Palmer, Valpy and J. A. Delay.

Per Hongkong Maru, for Hongkong, from Shanghai, &c., Mrs. W. S. Courrow, Mrs. Hugo Cook, Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Stanton, Mrs. N. A. Wood, Mrs. J. Fleishman, Mrs. E. B. Cook, Mrs. Edwards, Mrs. Shelly, Mrs. G. Swindell, Mrs. Morrison, Mrs. A. W. Dow, Mrs. Waldon, Mrs. E. H. Lady, Misses Murrin, N. Bibb, E. Engleman and Campbell, Messrs. J. E. Ainsworth, L. S. Briggs, A. F. Decker, A. A. Hoffmann, M. H. Sakol, C. G. Stanton, J. W. Pravig, C. A. Westerberger, F. B. Wood, D. F. Dow, T. Fleishman, G. E. Alkinson, H. S. Brinkerluff, F. B. Cook, J. F. Edwards, F. C. Thompson, C. H. Henderson, F. R. Vido, R. F. Berryman, J. J. Burleigh, T. C. Lammon, P. Remington, C. E. Waldon, C. W. Meag, F. S. Montgomery, R. Muller, E. H. Benson, W. S. Courrow, C. H. Danforth, H. W. Elliot, E. McCammon, R. H. Rhoades, J. F. Short, A. W. Dow, Hugo Cook, R. Pell, H. S. Kilburne, C. P. Provins and F. B. Shelly.

Per Bengal, for Hongkong, from London, Drs. Hempsted and D. Smith, Messrs. E. G. Newington, A. Richardson, Graystone, A. Johnstone, M. Johnstone, Inspector and Mrs. D. C. Cuthbert, and Miss N. M. Johnstone; from Gibraltar, Mr. A. S. Fernandes; from Marseilles, Mrs. Brunelli, Eng.-Lieut. Grant, Engr.-Comdr. Graham, Messrs. H. Sheppard and Perry; from Colombo, Mr. J. G. Hamilton; from Penang, Mr. F. A. Vanrenen; from Singapore, Messrs. Tyler, D. F. Spooner, R. Garrez, and Haller; for Shanghai, from London, Mrs. H. M. Bevis, Miss Bevis, and Mr. Roddis; from Marseilles, Mrs. Michie, Lieut. E. W. S. Mahon; for Yokohama, from London, Mr. D. Calman.

DEPARTED.

Per Polynesian, for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Clennell and two children, Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Joyce, Mr. and Mrs. de Poules, Mrs. M. Hirsch, Mrs. A. Stute, Mrs. Pauline Ground, Miss Purcell, Count Jezierah, Messrs. Paul, C. S. Purcell, G. F. Collyer, A. Woods, Sister Pournall, James Connell, W. C. Morrison, A. Hirsch, W. Stutz, E. Stute, George Hadith, E. Stamme, J. Bartle, Amalid Reipert, Marie Reipert, Emilie Ruppert, Marie Fassst, Rosa Fassst, Anna Fassst, A. F. Gristodulato and Ernest Parree.

Per Gaelic, for Shanghai, Dr. and Mrs. Lincoln, Messrs. E. H. J. Hogg, E. L. Gray, V. Falck, H. Schwerzerwaller, R. H. Newman, J. H. Carlo, J. E. Luson, H. Vancilif, T. C. Smith, H. Way, T. A. Todd, G. A. Davis, G. Packman, C. Curley, W. B. Spry, J. W. Long, and H. J. Spright; for Kobe, Mr. J. C. Chamston; for Nagasaki, Mr. J. C. Sandridge; for Yokohama, Mr. W. Kidston; for San Francisco, Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Graves, Messrs. L. E. Didway and H. H. Stratton; for London, Messrs. C. H. Browning and D. Meredith; for St. Louis, Mr. H. E. Deputy.

Per Kiangtshou, from Hongkong, for Hamburg, Lady Curzon, Mr. and Mrs. Frizell and child, Mr. and Mrs. Isidor Fleishman, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Goode, Mr. and Mrs. Hawley, Rev. and Mrs. G. L. Hendry and children, Mr. and Mrs. Hofmeister, Mrs. John Hood, Mr. and Mrs. Miss Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Littmann, Mr. and Mrs. G. S. Mackenzie, Mrs. Yasu Matsuo, Mrs. Lancy Neven, Mr. and Mrs. Semenza, Mrs. G. Sommer, Mrs. Matsuo Shigeno, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Uhlenbeck, Mrs. W. G. Vine, Mr. and Mrs. A. Waldeck, Mrs. Ynasa Yai, Mrs. Yama Yoshida, S. K. H. Prince Chakrabongse, Capt. Evans, General-Major von Rohrscheidt, Sub-Lieut. Seyd, Dr. Sugiyama, Misses Bullied, Ella du Cane, Florence du Cane, A. McGrath, Harden, Marie Mayer, Miles, Rojdestoensky (2), and Carrie Wasson, Messrs. M. S. d'Aben, M. Alnad, J. L. Anderson, Kennett Bayley, Victor Bock, J. Bos, G. F. Brierly, J. Bunting, J. H. Mayne Campbell, Robert Cordes, Victor S. Clark, B. H. Gainstord, J. Goosmann, Adolf von Hagen, G. Heuders, Hofeld, E. Hohl, O. H. Howell, M. H. Kempner, Kempner, H. Knoxe, Mandell, Hans Martin, E. Mesorope, G. O. Minott, Richard Muller, P. Müllemeister, M. Ossorio, Otto Petz, M. A. Sanda, S. Santos, Ida Seizo, Feldweibel, Spangenberg, Tobien, Verwayen, George Willey, D. M. Woodward, E. Wookey, and Lieut. Gebhardt.

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